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Kuwait is held in high esteem: Amir

THE image and reputation of Kuwait is not measured by the size of its area or population and should be viewed in terms of the high esteem and respect it is accorded by many countries. His Highness the Amir has said.

The Amir also said that Kuwait has been greatly successful in tackling and steadfastly countering terrorist acts. The refusal to bow down to blackmail has won the highest esteem and respect at the international level, His Highness said.

personally take an interest in the day-to-day upbringing of their children and said: "We should ensure that every care is taken in the upbringing of our children in accordance with the teaching of Islam and our traditions and customs."

Speaking on the education scene, the Amir said that there have been an increase in the number of complaints by students against teachers who ill-treat them. He said that such a

phenomenon is more common in the intermediate schools and called for undertaking a study to redress this phenomenon.

The Amir said that teachers should deal with students using modern day technologies and communications. However, the Amir said that care should be taken to selective use of any form of treatment. This selection should be based on the conduct of the individual student, the Amir said. Elucidating, he said, there are students

who by their negative behaviour are a disturbing factor to the general atmosphere and these students should be reprimanded.

The Amir proposed to the Teachers Society to study the relations between the teachers and their students and to work to find appropriate solutions to any misunderstanding. The Amir emphasised the need to protect and preserve the social status of teachers and stressed students who do not respect their teachers, do not deserve respect at all.

Iraq denies N-triggers charge

Enemies of Arabs trying to hinder progress: Saddam

BAGHDAD, March 30, (Agencies): Iraq indignantly denied yesterday that it bought triggers for nuclear warheads in the United States and tried to smuggle them through Britain.

It threatened a tit-for-tat retaliation for a British order deporting an Iraqi citizen, who it said had been "working legitimately in the Iraqi Airways office in London."

President Saddam Hussein said enemies of the Arabs were trying to hinder Iraq's "march of progress," a day after Britain said it smashed a plot to smuggle nuclear triggers to the country.

"The fires are intensifying, whether by aggressions or conspiracies, but the Iraqi people will not be worn

down," Saddam told a rally in Baghdad.

"If they think we will be worn down... they are fully mistaken," he told the rally, held on the occasion of Palestinian Land Day.

British accounts of the case were part of a media campaign intended to prepare the ground for aggression against Iraq, a Foreign Ministry statement said. Israel bombed Iraq's unfinished Osiraq research reactor in 1981, citing fears that Baghdad would build nuclear arms.

The official news agency INA said the acting head of the British embassy in Baghdad was summoned to the Foreign Ministry and told by Undersecretary Nizar Hamdoun that "Iraq did not violate the laws of

Britain or any other country."

He said that Iraq, which has signed the nuclear non-proliferation treaty, "stresses its full right to the transfer of technology, like other states."

INA said a Foreign Ministry spokesman "denied categorically, chapter and verse, allegations contained in a statement by the British authorities on Wednesday."

A Lebanese engineer, a man with dual British-Iraqi nationality and a Frenchwoman married to a Brito appeared in court in Britain yesterday after a raid at London's Heathrow airport in which US and British customs officers on Wednesday seized 40 nuclear triggers.

British authorities said an unnamed Iraqi would be deported.

British-Iraqi relations have been severely strained since the execution in Baghdad two weeks ago of Iranian-born Farzad Bazoft, a British-based journalist convicted of spying.

"The spokesman said the allegations and measures fall within the tendentious campaign of slander that the British authorities and media and Zionist circles have been launching against Iraq for some time with a view to endangering Iraq's security and preparing politically and through the media for aggression against the country," INA said.

"The campaign reminds us of the Israeli aggression in 1981, which followed a similar and feverish propaganda campaign that paved the way for Israeli aggression on Iraqi scientific installations."

Iraq said it "held the British authorities responsible for the consequences of its measures... (and) reserved the right to take measures on the basis of reciprocal treatment."

The spokesman said the campaign against the so-called Iraqi nuclear programme, "The Foreign Ministry said, 'Iraq has already accepted the guarantees convention issued by the International Atomic Energy Agency...'

The people accused of trying to smuggle 40 US-made devices for triggering nuclear weapons to Iraq appeared in a British court yesterday, and authorities said they also are investigating the alleged smuggling of nuclear equipment.

The arrest of the three people in Britain on Wednesday followed an 18-month investigation by US and British police and customs authorities.

Britain's customs and excise department identified the three defendants in a statement as Lebanese engineer Toufic Fawzi Amrani, 37; Ashour Daghir, 49, a company director with dual Iraqi and British citizenship; and export executive Jeanine Celestine Speckman, 41, a French woman married to a Brito. All gave addresses to or around London.

Amrani and Daghir were ordered held in custody until April 15, while Mrs Speckman was granted bail during an appearance yesterday in Westminster magistrates court in West London.

All were charged under the export of prohibited goods control act.

The customs and excise office also said that investigations were under way in Scotland and northwestern England into alleged attempts to export nuclear equipment to Iraq.

Press Association, Britain's domestic news agency, reported that two arrests were expected, but a customs spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity, would not confirm or deny that report.



An aubergine

Zahid Rassam and his wife Fanda of Leicester, England, hold an aubergine which they claim has the name of Allah inscribed in Arabic inside the vegetable. As many as 5,000 pilgrims from the Midlands have visited the remarkable aubergine. (Reuters wirephoto)

Top Kashmiri leader shot dead

SRINAGAR, India, March 30, (AP): The Indian Army shot and killed 10 Muslim rebels trying to slip into Pakistani-held territory today, and a top leader of the main Islamic militant group was killed in a separate clash, police and official sources said.

The 10 men killed near the border were part of a group that opened fire on the Army when they were spotted trying to cross from Indian-governed Kashmir into Pakistan, official sources said in Jammu, the winter capital of Jammu-Kashmir state.

The army fired back, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity. Twelve Muslim rebels were captured and arrested, the sources said.

The clash occurred near Dumari Gali, about 75 kms (45 miles) north of Srinagar.

In Srinagar, heart of the Muslim secession movement, a key leader of the Jammu-Kashmir Liberation Front was killed by police as he attempted to pitch a hand grenade into a police bunker, police said.

A blast of automatic weapons fire from the bunker killed Ashfaq Majid Wani, the front's area commander, police said.

Three other people died in the crossfire, witnesses and police said.

Police sources, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said Wani was killed as he drove by the bunker in downtown Srinagar on a motor scooter. They said the 28-year-old militant had a grenade in his hand and was ready to throw it in the bunker.

Security forces manning the bunker noticed him and opened fire, police said. Wani died on the spot at 8 am (0230 GMT). It was not immediately known whether the three other victims were involved in the secessionist struggle.

Official sources in Jammu gave an identical account, except they added that unsewn gunnery fired on the police bunker just before Wani was shot.

At least 231 people have been killed in Kashmir since Jan 20, when the government launched a crackdown on increasing violence by Muslim separatists. Yesterday, police killed at least 15 people in bursts of automatic weapons fire after a security officer was killed in a grenade attack.

Those deaths also occurred in Srinagar, the largest city in the Kashmir valley and the focal point of the growing movement. One million people live in the city.

Earlier this week, Indian border guards shot and killed two Pakistani civilians when a crowd of about 100 people, chanting anti-Indian slogans, tried to storm the border dividing Kashmir into its Indian and Pakistani sections.

Largely Hindu India has accused Muslim Pakistan of causing the trouble in Kashmir, a region disputed between the two countries. Pakistan rejects the charge but demands that the people of Kashmir be given the right of self-determination.

DAY BY DAY

KUWAIT should be commended for withdrawing from the Arab Economic Unity Council as there are countless organisations in the Arab world whose purposes are identical.

The proliferation of such organisations is an obstacle to obtaining approval on any issue as it has to pass through myriad of organisations. By the time approval is obtained, the purpose becomes obsolete.

It has now become imperative to review the character of all Arab organisations and councils to select those that are active and those that are sleeping.

Zahed Matar

NEWSWATCH

Princess Eugenie

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): Britain's Duke and Duchess of York have named their week-old baby daughter Eugenie Victoria Helena. Buckingham Palace announced today.

Infiltrators

KUWAIT, March 30: The security forces arrested on Thursday morning 17 infiltrators who were trying to infiltrate into the country through the sea.

People who were enjoying their time at the Bode coast, saw the Iranian infiltrators and immediately informed the security forces, who rushed to the scene and arrested them.

Ability improved

WASHINGTON, March 30, (Reuters): Libya has tested a system to refuel fighter-bombers in an apparently successful step toward improving its ability to attack Israel and other targets in the region. Bush administration officials said on Thursday.

The officials, who asked not to be identified, declined to confirm or deny a New York Times report that the test was successful and could eventually enable Libya's Soviet-built SU-24 fighter-bombers to easily reach Israel with heavier bomb loads.

Iran-Iraq talks

UNITED NATIONS, March 30, (Reuters): A new round of peace talks between the foreign ministers of Iran and Iraq is likely to begin at the end of April or in mid-May. Security Council sources said on Thursday.

A UN spokesman told reporters earlier that both countries had indicated in principle they favoured renewed negotiations on a peace settlement under UN auspices but first wanted a number of issues clarified.

Congress loses

NEW DELHI, March 30, (AP): The Congress Party of former prime minister Rajiv Gandhi suffered the latest in a string of reverses on Thursday when it lost its majority in the upper house of parliament.

United Nations India agency said the Congress Party won 11 of the 70 seats for which elections were held on Thursday.

Lonely hearts

ad leads to romance with wife

OSLO, March 30, (Reuters): Norwegian fisherman Martin Auvvaag put an anonymous lonely hearts advertisement in his local newspaper — and got a reply from his wife.

"I've seen that woman before," Auvvaag thought to himself as he peered through a magnifying glass at the photograph Lilly Elloer Jacobsen sent with a letter starting "Hello unknown friend."

Auvvaag, 55, who said he was lonely, is now starting a new romance with his wife, who unwittingly ended their 18-year separation by replying. They had no contact for a decade.

The couple, who have three children, plan to meet at Easter. Norwegian newspapers reported on Thursday.

Auvvaag got only two replies to his advertisement, which merely gave his age and said he was lonely, youthful, and lived in western Norway and was "interested in nature and fishing."

The couple first met 27 years ago — through a lonely hearts column.

Ramadan timings

Imrak 4.09 am
Iftar 6.06 pm



A kytron nuclear trigger identical to 40 seized at London's Heathrow Airport on Wednesday is seen (right) at the corporate headquarters of EG&G, Inc. in Waltham, Massachusetts on Thursday. EG&G is the only manufacturer of the devices in the United States and says that they supplied the US Customs Department with inoperable versions of the trigger for use in the Iraqi sling operation. At left, Los Angeles airport workers load a crate onto a TWA aircraft containing triggers bound for Iraq. (Reuters wirephoto)

Rival dropped; new foreign minister

Premadasa names new cabinet

COLOMBO, March 30, (AP): President Ranasinghe Premadasa named a new cabinet today, removing a political rival who supported India's military occupation of the island nation.

Premadasa re-appointed Prime Minister Dingiri Banda Wijetunga to his post and named a new foreign minister, Harold Herath.

A Premadasa rival, Minister for Plantation Industries Gamini Dissanayake, was dropped from the cabinet, according to a communique issued by the presidential secretariat.

Dissanayake, 48, was a close ally of former president Junius Jayewardene and an architect of the accord with New Delhi that led to India's 30-month military occupation of Sri Lanka.

The accord, signed in June 1987, brought Indian troops to

Sri Lanka in an attempt to end the country's conflict with Tamil separatists. The last Indian troops withdrew on March 24 after failing to quell the guerrilla movement.

Premadasa, elected to office in December 1988, was opposed to the Indian occupation.

Former minister Dissanayake was not immediately available for comment but a local newspaper today quoted him as saying he would not resign from his political party, the ruling United National Party.

Premadasa dissolved the cabinet on Wednesday, shortly after Prime Minister Wijetunga tendered his resignation.

Wijetunga, 68, was reappointed prime minister and finance minister.

Former foreign minister Ranjan Wijeratne was named planta-

tion minister, allowing Herath to take the Foreign Ministry post. The president also added five posts to the cabinet, bringing the number of ministers to 26.

In addition to his duties as executive president, Premadasa holds the post of Minister of Defence, along with other posts.

The Sri Lankan constitution gives all executive powers to the president. During his first year in office, Premadasa convinced India to withdraw its peacekeeping troops. He also forged a fragile pact with Tamil guerrillas in the north and successfully contained an ultranationalist Sinhalese uprising in the south and centre of the island.

Meanwhile, the Indian High Commission in Sri Lanka expressed concern over the fate of at least 200 Indian fishermen.

Airbus, US charged in Indian scandal

NEW DELHI, March 30, (UPI): The government yesterday charged French-based Airbus Industrie, a US-based aircraft engine consortium and four former government officials with bribery and corruption in a \$1.4 billion purchase of 31 Airbus jets.

An official spokesman, who requested no further identification, said the Central Bureau of Investigation filed the charges with the court of a special anti-corruption judge.

The government document named as defendants Airbus Industrie, International Aero Engines of East Hartford, Connecticut, and S. S. Sidhu, former secretary of civil aviation and currently secretary-general of Montreal-based International Civil Aviation Organisation.

International Aero Engines is a consortium of aircraft engine makers from five countries — the United States (Pratt and Whitney, whose parent company is United Technologies Corp.) Japan, West Germany, former government officials (Kolls-Royce Pic) and Italy (Fiat SpA).

Also named were R. Prasad and Capt Kamini Chandra, former managing directors of state-owned Indian Airlines, and B.K. Bhasin, former deputy managing director of the country's main domestic carrier, the spokesman said.

Sidhu already faces charges of corruption in connection with a 1981 \$330 million purchase of four submarines from a West German company involving \$23 million in kickbacks. At the time, Sidhu was defence secretary.

Airbus Industrie in Paris today that it was "surprised" at the bribery and corruption charges the Indian government has filed against Airbus officials.

Airbus Industrie at Toulouse, south-western France, said that the Indian authorities have not sent any official notice and that it has no idea on who could be the unnamed Airbus officials.

87 killed in Filipino insurgency clashes

MANILA, March 30, (Agencies): At least 87 people, including an executive of the multinational Nestle company, were killed in the Philippine communist insurgency this week in the run-up to the rebel army's 21st anniversary, the military and police said.

Troops killed 59 guerrillas for the loss of one soldier in an attack on a rebel training camp on the

southern island of Mindanao early in the week, the military said.

A military statement said 23 soldiers were wounded in the fighting on Sunday and Monday in the rugged interior of the island's Surigao Del Sur province.

Police said at least 27 other people had died this week in a spate of rebel attacks around

Muntla and on Mindanao in the approach to Thursday's 21st anniversary of the founding of the communist New People's Army (NPA).

At least one NPA guerrilla and three soldiers were killed in two separate attacks on Wednesday in Manila and the province of Nueva Ecija to the north, police said.

Aoun ready to accept Taif accord

KUWAIT, March 30, (AP): A Kuwaiti daily reported today that Lebanese Gen Michel Aoun has sent messages to the leaders of Saudi Arabia, Algeria and Morocco expressing readiness to accept the Taif peace accord.

The paper published a reproduction of what it said was the original letter that Aoun sent to the three heads of state who are members of a three-man committee on Lebanon. It said he sent it to other Arab leaders as well.

Aoun's rejection of the peace accord worked out in October at the Saudi resort of Taif by Lebanese parliamentarians has been the main impediment to

implementation of its provisions, aimed at putting an end to Lebanon's almost 15 years of civil war.

Aoun's main objection was that the accord did not clearly specify that the estimated 40,000 Syrian troops in Lebanon would be withdrawn. He has described these troops, sent in 1976 under UN Arab League peace mandate, as an occupation force.

The daily said Aoun offered a concession to Syria when he expressed "readiness to accept a solution that ensures not only the supreme Arab interest, but also satisfies all concerned parties and meets their legitimate interests." (See Page 5)

INTERNATIONAL

Estonia considering independence revival

Moscow plans to have own chief prosecutor in Lithuania

TALLINN, Soviet Union, March 30. (Reuters): The Estonian parliament was set today to follow the example of its fellow Baltic republic Lithuania in re-establishing its pre-war independence but softened by a transition to statehood.

Meanwhile, the Soviet government today tried to install its own chief prosecutor in the breakaway republic of Lithuania.

Deputy prosecutor Alexei Vasiliev, representing Moscow, met with more than 100 members of the Lithuanian parliament today.

The staff reacted with angry questions, then Lithuanian lawmaker Egidijus Bickauskas objected.

"I hope you will consider your place is in your office under the leadership of Mr Paulauskas," he told the newcomer.

Vasiliev retorted by telling the staff not to listen to Bickauskas. At that point, all but about a dozen staff members got up and left the room.

The incident came as Lithuania and the Kremlin continued their standoff over the republic's attempt to break from the Soviet Union.

The Soviet Army yesterday offered amnesty to Lithuanian deserters after rounding up dozens of soldiers as part of a crackdown on the republic's independence drive.

The decision announced by the Defence Ministry general staff came a day after Lithuania offered two compromises. The republic suspended a plan to institute its own border guard and told citizens not to resist Soviet attempts to seize personal firearms.

Defence Ministry officials told Tass that Lithuanians who left the Soviet armed forces after their republic declared independence March 11 would not be punished if they resumed their military service.

However, those who continued to hide would be "searched out, detained and be subject to criminal punishment in accordance with current law."

In Vilnius, Lithuanian President Vytautas Landsbergis conceded a referendum could be held on the future of the rebellious republic, but said it should determine whether Lithuania would join the Soviet Union.

"I am ready to exchange opinions with Moscow on any question, including the question of a referen-

dum," Landsbergis told United Press International on Wednesday. But he sought to soften his concession by saying any referendum held should decide whether an independent Lithuania wants to join the Soviet Union.

"What kind of concessions should we make—to join the Soviet Union? In order to decide this issue we have to hold a referendum," Landsbergis said. "The starting point must be the independence of Lithuania."

In London, Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher emphasised the need for restraint by all sides in the Lithuania crisis during a 50-minute telephone conversation with Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev on Wednesday, her office said.

The phone call was arranged mutually in advance through diplomatic contacts, before Thatcher's meetings with West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl in Britain on Thursday and today and her meeting with US President George Bush in Bermuda on April 13.

The US administration is making its opposition to the use of force in Lithuania known to Moscow "in the strongest fashion," the White House said Wednesday.

Presidential spokesman Martin Fitzwater said that US communications with Moscow over the tense situation in the rebellious Baltic republic have included private diplomatic cable messages.

"The fact that we have made that position known to them by almost every recognised channel—which is to say diplomatic and direct conversations between (Secretary of State James) Baker and (Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze as well as cable messages to the Soviet Union—indicates that we have registered our position in the strongest fashion," Fitzwater said.

execute the laws of the Soviet Union instead of the orders of the new Lithuanian government. But most of the staff walked out during the meeting.

Vasiliev brought with him an ethnic Lithuanian, Antanas Petrauskas, selected by Soviet authorities to replace the prosecutor who had been appointed by the Lithuanian government. Arturas Paulauskas.



Chairman Arnold Ruutel (centre) was elected as new President in Tallinn, Estonia. (Reuters wirephoto)

Anti-terrorist squads arrive in Beijing

China tightens security for Games

BEIJING, March 30. (Reuters): Anti-terrorist troops have arrived in Beijing in preparation for September's Asian Games and police have tightened security to counter calls for anti-government protests next week, according to official reports and residents yesterday.

Police in helmets and armed with submachine-guns have reappeared on the streets of the capital during the day. At night residents have encountered more road-blocks and more troops have been billeted in compounds.

"Overall there is a heightened security presence," a Western diplomat said. "The authorities are certainly jittery."

Foreign and Chinese residents have seen leaflets, some apparently faxed into Beijing from abroad, calling on people to "take a walk" on Sunday and April 5 in Tiananmen Square—the focus of last year's student democracy movement which was crushed by the army in June.

Chinese sources said the security apparatus had circulated its own document ordering heightened vigilance in April. Last year's mass protests were triggered by the death of former Communist Party leader Hu Yaobang on April 15.

The traditional festival of the dead known as "qingming", when Chinese give respect to their ancestors, falls on April 5.

"Students and workers know about these leaflets," said a young Beijing resident. "I don't think anything will happen but I'm staying at home anyway," he added.

Diplomats said they very much doubted the people of Beijing were ready to take to the streets again as they did last May in their hundreds of thousands.

An official newspaper said crack anti-terrorist troops had started arriving in Beijing in preparation for the Asian

1,000 held after Macau rush for amnesty

HONG KONG, March 30. (Reuters): Hundreds of people were arrested in the Portuguese-administered territory of Macau yesterday as thousands of illegal immigrants battled to get into a racetrack after rumours spread of a general government amnesty.

Police fired shots in the air to try to restore order.

Police and officials said some 50,000 illegal immigrants fought to get into the racetrack, where government officials had set up a temporary registration centre.

Radio Macau said 100 people were injured, some seriously, and about 1,000 people were detained.

Local reporters said many of the arrested had streamed across the border from China as word spread that the government was registering illegal immigrants and would consider granting full identity cards at a later date.

Radio Macau broadcast appeals for people to stay away from the racetrack, which was cordoned off by police.

Television footage showed police drawing their pistols and firing in the air, and the crowd running for cover.

An official at Macau's security

Games, a showcase event which the authorities hope will show the world China is politically stable.

The Hainan special zone news said the units were among more than 40,000 crack troops to be deployed during the Games.

"These special anti-terrorist forces will be deployed in sensitive places to react quickly to any sudden events," the newspaper said.

China's communist leaders, currently meeting in Beijing for



A Macau policeman hits an illegal immigrant with his whip in an effort to restore order. (Reuters wirephoto)

force headquarters said a large number of people had been arrested but could not confirm the total.

The Mele was triggered by a government decision on Tuesday to grant amnesty to 4,000 parents whose children were either born in Macau or who came there to study and registered during an amnesty last year.

Macau has a population of about 500,000 but officials admit

they do not know the exact number because of the thousands of illegal immigrants from China who live and work there.

Officials said they were taking names of people and a decision on whether to grant them full identity cards would be taken later.

Government officials said no decision had yet been made on who would be eligible for the amnesty.

pressure on us. But these problems and pressures are nothing to be afraid of," Li said.

China's Supreme Court president Ren Jianxin revealed yesterday a dramatic increase in the number of criminals sentenced last year but denied foreign reports of secret trials and human rights abuses.

Ren, delivering a speech to the National People's Congress, said Chinese courts passed 482,658 criminal sentences last year, up almost 30 per cent on 1988.

Tigers release Indian fishermen

COLOMBO, March 30. (Reuters): More than 200 Indian fishermen, abducted by Sri Lankan Tamil militant group, were released and headed for home today, military sources said.

The fishermen were released at Vadamarachchi on the eastern coast of northern Jaffna peninsula, where they had been seized by the militants.

Newspaper reports today said the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) guerrillas had detained the fishermen and seized their boats for allegedly fishing in Sri Lankan territorial waters off the island's northern coast.

Sri Lanka military sources said the LTTE denied the accusation and said an unnamed Tamil rebel group was responsible.

Earlier today an Indian High Commission (embassy) spokesman said India had sought Sri Lanka's help in tracing the fishermen.

Tamil residents of Jaffna said the Tamil Tiger guerrillas rounded up the fishermen on Wednesday night off Point Pedro, a coastal village in the Jaffna peninsula.

A Tiger guerrilla contacted by telephone in Jaffna, 300 kilometres (187 miles) northeast of Colombo, denied any knowledge of the incident.

But the Tamil residents, who like the guerrilla spoke on condition of anonymity, said the fishermen were being held at a Tiger camp in Point Pedro, 32 kilometres (20 miles) northeast of the town of Jaffna.

The residents said local fishermen had complained to the Tigers that Indian boats were fishing in Sri Lankan waters.

The Sri Lanka armed forces dispatched an airplane to survey the area and reported at least 50 fishing boats were drawn up along the shores of Point Pedro. But military officials did not confirm the Tigers were holding Indian fishermen.

Point Pedro is 110 kilometres (68 miles) off the Indian coast. The Tigers were the most powerful of several guerrilla groups that launched a rebellion in 1983 to try to create a separate Tamil homeland in northeastern Sri Lanka.

Three years ago, India brokered a peace pact and agreed to send peacekeeping troops. The Sri Lanka government promised to give Tamil limited autonomy, but the Tigers reneged on the deal and turned their guns on the Indian soldiers while Sri Lanka troops remained in their barracks.

At least 11,000 people have been killed in the Tamil insurrection since 1983.

In New Delhi India's troops, exfiltrated from their most controversial overseas foray, received a sober welcome home from Sri Lanka by Prime Minister Vishwanath Pratap Singh on Wednesday.

Some 1,200 of the troops, sent to Sri Lanka as peace-keepers and brought home after military and diplomatic confrontations, assembled at Patan Military Airbase to hear Singh remember their 1,155 dead comrades.

"My soldiers are battle-hardened, morale is high—what more do you want?" General Ravinder Bhalla told reporters of the mission which was meant to end guerrilla warfare and enable a political settlement for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority.

The soldiers greeted the low-key address with polite applause before being ordered to stand for traditional chants of "Prime minister we salute you; Mother India we salute you."

Police said 20 fishing boats were caught in the Bay of Bengal in Wednesday's storm and have not returned home.

The death toll from a capsized ferryboat in southern Bangladesh rose to 55 with recovery of 12 bodies early Wednesday from the river Naaf on the Burmese border, and was expected to grow nearly twice as high, police said.

The 96-seat boat sank on Tuesday near the town of Taknaf while carrying about 200 passengers, more than three-fourths of whom were returning from a visit with relatives across the river in the town of Mongdu in Burma, authorities said.

A total of 87 people were rescued and police believed about 50 others were still missing.

Hundreds of relatives of presumed victims also were scouring the area in search of missing passengers, the police said.

One relative, Ayub Ali of Taknaf, told police the dead included seven members of his family who had gone to Mongdu to shop. He said there were at least 15 people from his village who were still missing.

The bodies recovered by Wednesday included 34 women and seven children, police said.

On Thursday, police said 10 people had died in the storm, but the confirmed death toll rose to 15 when searchers found more bodies in the rubble of collapsed houses.

Nearly 500 people were injured in the storm that uprooted trees, toppled electricity poles and destroyed vast rice paddies in the coastal Noakhali district 120 kilometres (75 miles) southeast of Bangladesh, according to Noakhali police who spoke on condition of anonymity.

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Papandreou waves

Indicted former premier Andreas Papandreou predicted on Thursday he would win the April 8 election and end the political deadlock that has gripped Greece since last June.

"On April 9 I will be prime minister," he told a crowd of tens of thousands at a rally in the plain of Mars, a square in central Athens. Picture shows Papandreou waves to supporters.

Nepal FM quits

Police fire on demonstrators

KATHMANDU, March 30. (UPI): Police fired on pro-democracy demonstrators today, wounding 10 people after protesters attacked a police station and attempted to set fire to the mayor's office in a suburb of the Nepalese capital, witnesses reported.

An estimated 10,000 demonstrators today set fire to three government vehicles and burned a library near the mayor's office in the ancient, temple-studded town of Pathan, one mile (2 km) south of Kathmandu, underground party sources said.

Hospital sources said at least 10 people were wounded in the police firing, two of them seriously.

Witnesses said the demonstrators tried to set fire to the mayor's office in Pathan and to a nearby court building.

At least 14 people have been officially confirmed killed by police firing, stone-throwing and stabbing incidents connected with the protests, which have taken place in many areas of the Himalayan kingdom since Feb. 18.

The opposition Nepali Congress Party and a coalition of seven other banned leftist parties organized the movement in an effort to end Nepal's party-less system of panchayats, or elected councils, over which King Biren-

dra has ultimate authority.

The demonstrators want a return to political parties and electoral politics, which have been banned for more than 30 years.

The latest protests began early today morning in Pathan, a key center for the pro-democracy movement, with groups emerging from alleys to shout slogans such as "down with the panchayat system," and "we want democracy."

Residents of Pathan told United Press International by telephone that police fired tear gas to disperse the demonstrators and used loudspeakers to warn residents to stay indoors.

Most schools in Kathmandu were closed today in answer to calls by eight students groups to mourn the death of students killed during the movement for restoration of multi-party democracy.

The police shooting today came after thousands of students at dozens of schools battled riot police in the capital since Feb. 18.

More than 200 people were arrested yesterday and at least 92 were injured as the demonstrations spread from college campuses to secondary schools across the capital, witnesses and opposition sources said.

Chavali took up the new posts under a command issued by the country's constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, said the government-run radio Thailand.

Chavali had been acting supreme commander. He was offered the cabinet posts by Prime Minister Chuanricha Chongthavorn, who has replaced Chavali with his brother-in-law, Gen. Chuanricha Chongthavorn, who has replaced Chavali with his brother-in-law, Gen. Chuanricha Chongthavorn.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Storms kill 17

HONG KONG, March 30. (Reuters): Seventeen people were killed this week in a severe storm in China's southwestern province of Guangxi, the Beijing-owned China news service said.

The agency mentioned in Hong Kong last night, said a cyclone hit seven small Guangxi towns on Wednesday, killing 17 people.

It said an oil storage tank blew up when it was struck by lightning but gave no further details.

More than 100 houses were destroyed and more than 20 people injured. Communications were seriously damaged, it said.

However, the heavy rainfall caused a six-month-long drought in the reservoir water levels.

Thai politics
BANGKOK, March 30. (AP): Retired Army Chief Gen. Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, became Deputy Prime Minister and Defence Minister today, a move that students and other critics saw as a setback for Thai democracy.

Chavalit took up the new posts under a command issued by the country's constitutional monarch, King Bhumibol Adulyadej, said the government-run radio Thailand.

Chavalit had been acting supreme commander. He was offered the cabinet posts by Prime Minister Chuanricha Chongthavorn, who has replaced Chavali with his brother-in-law, Gen. Chuanricha Chongthavorn.

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PEOPLE AND PLACES

PARIS: The director of Cuba's state tobacco company Tuesday challenged a leading European cigar merchant to a taste test to determine whether the quality of Cuban cigars has declined.

Francisco Padron, director of Cubanataco, issued the challenge at a news conference to counter complaints made by tobacco merchant Zino Davidoff.

Davidoff's company, based in Switzerland, is traditionally the supplier of cigars for Europe's wealthy industrialists and bankers. It broke its contract with Cubanataco last year, contending that the quality and consistency of Havana cigars had dropped.

Padron proposed a televised taste test in which cigar connoisseurs would judge the quality of Cubanataco's La Havana Cigars.

"Zino Davidoff hasn't been to Cuba for 20 years and he knows nothing about Cuban cigars," said Padron, puffing on a La Havana during the news conference. (AP)

CHICAGO, Illinois: The deputy mayor of education says she is sending her oldest daughter to a suburban private academy because the quality of education in Chicago is poor.

Louise Montezagudo, who was appointed in May by Mayor Richard M. Daley said the girl is a freshman at North Shore Country Day School in Winnetka, where Montezagudo's former husband lives.

"Even if the girl lived with her every day on Chicago's north-west side, Montezagudo said, she would not send her to Clemente high school, the school she would have to attend."

"I don't have to apologize for it," she said. (AP)

NEW YORK: After 20 years battling the bare of traffic, trains and New Yorkers, street violinist James Graseck saved enough money to rent a prestigious Manhattan concert hall for the performance of a lifetime on Thursday night.

Graseck saved \$5,000 from his street and underground train renditions and decided to buy himself one glorious evening at Alice Tully Hall at Manhattan's Lincoln Centre.

"I want to give them my best," said Graseck, a classically trained violinist. (Reuters)

Best Dressed praise Gorbys

NEW YORK, March 30, (Reuters): Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev received a special commendation today for liberating the dress sense of the Soviet man, the influential international Best Dressed poll said.

Gorbachev was named for "opening the door to fashion as it means 'self-esteem' and self-expression to the men of the Eastern bloc nations after 40 years of enforced anonymity," according to a release from Eleanor Lambert, who created the poll 50 years ago.

Britain's Princess Diana and King Juan Carlos of Spain headed a group of 12 people named to the poll's permanent Hall of Fame, while 24 other people were listed the best-dressed for 1989-90.

The lists are compiled by a large international panel of fashion experts and, according to an American commentator, winners must have "money, looks, connections and more money."



Mammoth miniature

ERST GEBIG, sculptor at German ivory museum in Erbach near Frankfurt is carving out miniature animal figures of Soviet mammoth ivory. More than one tonne was shipped from Soviet Union to the West German ivory carving centre to avoid using elephant ivory. (Reuters wirephoto)

WEST YELLOWSTONE, Montana: Snow-plow crews have gotten the city of West Yellowstone into a bit of difficulty by doing their job too thoroughly.

The Chamber of Commerce has complained to the city council that bare pavement is driving away tourists who want snow-packed streets in the town that bills itself as the snowmobile capital of the world.

The streets are snow-packed most of the winter, but are plowed bare when the spring thaw begins. And bare pavement means that snowmobilers can ruin their machines trying to get from motels and restaurants to the snow-covered trails in the nearby Gallatin national forest, Chamber of Commerce President Lorraine Steops said. (AP)

MADRID, Spain: The former director of state-run Spanish television has been indicted on charges of misappropriating public funds and using them to buy designer clothes.

A Madrid district court issued the indictment Tuesday against Pilar Mira, 41. She resigned from her post in November 1988 after newspapers reported an internal audit indicated she had spent about \$36,000 of public funds on her personal wardrobe and gifts. Mira said she made an honest mistake and had believed accounting procedures permitted her to buy clothes for use at the numerous official functions she said the job required her to attend. She reimbursed the television station after the audit. (AP)

ROME: Pigeons trying to land on Rome's Trevi Fountain, where tourists throw coins for good luck, will get a nasty shock from September.

Restorers said on Wednesday the 18th century fountain would be wired with low voltage electricity following a 20-month renovation project to keep away pigeons and their droppings.

The fountain has been dry since a 1.2 billion lire (\$1 million) clean-up began in January last year. (Reuters)

Study finds no sign of global warming

WASHINGTON, March 30, (Reuters): A new satellite study of world temperatures over the past decade has found no evidence of the global warming trend predicted by many scientists.

The new finding reported yesterday is certain to fire up the debate in the scientific community over whether world temperatures are actually on the rise.

The latest report on global temperature trends is said by its authors, a team of researchers from the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa) and the University of Alabama, Huntsville, to be the most reliable yet prepared.

It relies on data gathered by a series of satellites launched into the upper atmos-

phere in late 1978 by the US Commerce Department's National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration.

"While future global temperature variations were not specifically addressed, the decade from 1979 through 1988 showed no net warming or cooling trend," Nasa said, summing up the report.

The government satellites were equipped with devices able to measure the temperature in a layer of air 600 miles (965 kms) wide and 5,000 (1,524 metres) to 20,000 feet (6,096 metres) above sea level, a slice of the upper atmosphere where scientists predict the first telltale signs of global warming will appear.

Instead of a steady warming trend, the researchers found a seemingly random pattern of change from year to year.

"The warmest year was 1987, and the next warmest was 1988, but the average of the first five years - 1979 to 1983 - was warmer than the most recent five," said John Christy of the University of Alabama's Johnson Research Centre.

The years 1984, 1985 and 1986 were the coolest of the decade, Christy and fellow researcher Roy Spencer of Nasa said.

Their report is published in this week's Science magazine.

The two men said they found the satellite-based system for gathering tem-

perature data to be far more accurate than any earth-based system and they recommended that it be adapted as the standard way to monitor future global temperature change.

"The resulting data should provide a greater focus of scientific debate on why temperature anomalies occur rather than whether they occur," the researchers said.

The satellite data is superior to land-based systems because temperatures recorded by ground-based thermometers are concentrated near population centres, leaving the oceans and vast regions of remote desert, rain forest and mountains unmonitored, the researchers said.

Liverpool concert tribute to Lennon

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): A tribute to British musician John Lennon, the former Beatle shot dead in New York 10 years ago, is to be held in May in his home town of Liverpool but none of the other ex-Beatles are expected to attend.

The concert on May 5 in the northern port city where the pop group leapt to fame in the early 1960s is part of a series of charity events organised by Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, to celebrate what would have been the singer's 50th birthday.

In an interview published today, Ono said the proceeds of the concert would be given to environmental charities and used to provide student scholarships to Liverpool University and other colleges.

"Liverpool was everything to him. He was born and brought up here and very proud of being a Liverpudlian," she told Britain's Press Association news agency.

"This is what he always wanted to do - to give scholarships to children and help ecological causes," Ono, a Japanese-born artist and singer, said.

The line-up for the concert at Liverpool's Pier Head venue will include singers Lou Reed, B.B. King and Roberta Flack, who will all perform Lennon songs.

Ex-Beatles Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr are to provide special recordings for the memorial concert, Ono said. George Harrison, the third ex-Beatle, was also expected to make a contribution, but no details were available.

Lennon settled in the United States with Ono, his second wife, after Beatles broke up in 1979. He was shot dead outside his New York apartment in 1980 after a solo career which had won him fresh acclaim with a string of hit singles and album collaborations with Ono.



Yoko Ono, wife of murdered Beatle John Lennon and their son Sean Lennon together at a press conference where they announced plans for a musical celebration. (Reuters wirephoto)

Scan into origins of universe

PARIS, March 30, (Reuters): Astronomers will be able to gaze back billions of years towards the origins of the universe after a giant telescope is launched into space next month, the European Space Agency (ESA) said.

Using a high-resolution camera inside a solar-powered space telescope, scientists will be able to gaze deeper into the universe than ever before at objects billions of light years away, effectively seeing what happened billion of years ago.

The 11-tonne Hubble space telescope will be launched on board the US space shuttle Discovery from Kennedy Space Centre in Florida on April 12, ESA said. The shuttle will place the telescope into a low-Earth orbit.

ESA have developed the bus-size telescope, the largest astronomical observatory sent into space, with the US National Aeronautics and Space Administration (Nasa).

Hemingway stories

NEW YORK, March 30, (Reuters): Two recently discovered short stories by Ernest Hemingway will be published for the first time next month, including one that could have altered his reputation for favouring ultra-macho heroes, a leading Hemingway scholar said.

The stories will be published on April 16 by the Hemingway Review, a scholarly journal published by Ohio Northern University with a circulation of less than 1,000.

Cold fusion claim Pioneer upset

BOSTON, March 30, (AP): The chemist who said he discovered a way to produce nuclear fusion in a lab jar said the overwhelmingly negative response to his work from other researchers has shaken his faith in science.

Stanley Pons commented after the British journal Nature carried a highly critical analysis of his discovery. The Nature analysis was based on measurements by Pons' University of Utah colleagues.

Pons galvanized the science world a year ago when he and a colleague, Martin Fleischman of England's University of Southampton, announced that they have achieved cold fusion. Such a feat, if true, would give the world a limitless supply of energy.

Two months after last spring's announcement, Michael H. Salamon, a physicist at the university who was uninvolved in the research, set up sensors in Pons' lab for five weeks to check the nuclear output of this cold fusion equipment.

"We did not see a peep," Salamon said in an interview. "There was not an iota, not a sniff, of conventional fusion occurring. We saw no neutrons or gamma rays that could be attributed to a fusion process."

Pons responded that Salamon's experiment was poorly performed and done to please physicists at other universities who were unhappy that such an important discovery had been made by a chemist, not a physicist.

"It's pretty distressing, because most of the allegations in the paper are not true," Pons said in an interview.

He said the physicists ignored energy cells in his lab that were producing large amounts of heat and instead set up their monitoring equipment to check ones that were making only low amounts. He said the sensors were also placed at an angle that missed evidence of nuclear activity.

"They were in (the lab) for political reasons," said Pons. "They were embarrassed by this. They were embarrassed that a chemist had fallen into a nuclear reaction so simply. Their outside colleagues were putting tremendous pressure on them."

Viscount wins libel

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): Queen Elizabeth's nephew Viscount Linley won libel damages of £35,000 (\$57,000) yesterday over a newspaper story which alleged he had been banned from a bar for throwing beer around.

But having won the case Linley said he was not bothered about the money and would only pocket £5,000 (\$8,000) of the amount awarded to him.

Linley, the 28-year-old son of Princess Margaret and her former husband Lord Snowdon, said the article in the tabloid Today depicted him as an upper-class "lager lout".

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United Marketing Company	8.00 am to 2.00 pm 7.30 pm to 10.30 pm
Kuwait Animal Feed Factory	8.00 am to 2.00 pm
Al Sayer Soft Drinks Factory	8.00 am to 2.00 pm 2.00 pm to 9.00 pm
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INTERNATIONAL

Cuban no to US 'sex, drugs' TV

HAVANA, March 30, (Reuters): Cuba jammed a TV broadcast from the United States for the second consecutive day and attacked Washington for trying to impose "sex, drugs and violence television" on the communist-ruled island.

The Communist Party daily Granma dedicated nearly all of its front and back pages to articles and editorials condemning the start-up of US-funded TV Marti, which began a three-hour test transmission early on Tuesday and repeated it on Wednesday.

Cuba said it successfully blocked out both broadcasts and predicted a lengthy

electronic war with its powerful northern neighbour.

In New York, Cuba's UN ambassador said that a full-scale broadcast "war" might hamper communications with American aircraft.

"In this area there are many aeroplanes flying, most of them going to the US or coming from the US they may suffer," Ambassador Ricardo Alarcon said.

Referring to possible Cuban retaliation for the TV Marti broadcasts, he told a news conference: "If you have this war of signals going on in the area, according to the experts, some complications may

occur in terms of the necessary communications for aeroplanes in that particular area."

Cuba would not suffer much because it had no flights to the United States while many US flights traversed Cuba, he said.

TV Marti is the latest flare-up in the hostile US-Cuban relationship that began shortly after Fidel Castro led a revolution that toppled right-wing dictator Fulgencio Batista in 1959.

On its front-page, Granma directly quoted words used by Castro during a recent visit to Brazil.

"Now the US wants to impose its telev-

ision on us illegally in a way which breaks all international laws: Sex, drugs and violence Yankee television."

So far, residents in Havana who have been willing to sacrifice their sleep have caught only a glimpse of the TV Marti logo before it was wiped off the screen by the buzzing static and vertical bars of Cuban jamming.

Cuba says it cannot only jam the incoming broadcasts of news and entertainment but has the capacity to disrupt US broadcasting, communications and defence systems as well.

National death toll rises to thirty

Mandela, Buthelezi to meet

EDENDALE, South Africa, March 30, (Reuters): As South Africa's most powerful black leaders take steps to bring peace to strife-torn Natal province, dead bodies and rows of burned-out houses bear witness to the human misery behind the "Zulu wars."

Journalists covering the latest upsurge in the "Zulu wars," which have claimed more than 2,000 lives in the past three years, reported eight more bodies had been found in a black township outside the Natal capital of Pietermaritzburg.

The grisly discovery yesterday brings to about 30 the number of black youths killed since Tuesday in running battles between Inkatha and supporters of the ANC-allied United Democratic Front (UDF).

Police were unable to confirm the latest deaths.

Young and old men gather in small groups to patrol and defend their neighbourhoods throughout the night.

Mandela and Inkatha President Mangosuthu Buthelezi are due to address a joint rally on Monday to try to halt the clashes which have claimed about 30 lives over the past two days.

The fighting threatens the peace process between Pretoria and South Africa's disenfranchised black majority, launched last month by reformist President F.W. de Klerk.

"The legal procedure has collapsed and the leadership on both sides gave up trying to control its members to restore peace in the area," said a priest who asked not to be identified.

"The fighting temperature just keeps on running. We have not had a halt or proper food for three days," one of the fighters, 14-year-old Mandla Mhatha, told Reuters.

Mhatha said he learned to shoot after picking up a homemade gun from a friend who had been shot by an enemy group.

"I simply picked it up and pulled the trigger each time I wanted to shoot. From that day I became a graduate in shooting."

Mhatha's mother and two sisters were in a church where they sought refuge on Monday night when the fighting erupted.

"When I was running away from my burning house I heard our attackers chanting Inkatha slogans as they went from hut to hut, burning, shooting and bayoneting women and children," Mhatha's mother said.

She and 200 others staying at the church depend on bread, tea and coffee given to them by church groups.

"There is no life here. Those who are employed cannot go to work because of the fighting. If you do not work, there would be no food," said Mrs Mhatha's friend Evelina Hoppe.

Education, which might normally contain and channel the energies of young people like Mhatha, is almost at a standstill in most Natal townships.

"We are afraid our enemies will attack us in our schools. There is no alternative but to defend ourselves from outside the classrooms," one of Mhatha's friends said.

Hopes to end the warfare, which has claimed more than 2,000 lives in three years, are now pinned on Monday's meeting between Buthelezi and Mandela.

Most combatants in the war are, like Mhatha, in their teens — driven not by national political issues but by the local power struggle.

East German leaders agree to Stasi probe

EAST BERLIN, March 30, (Reuters): East Germany's political leaders, confronted by the first street protests since free elections 11 days ago, agreed yesterday to investigate new deputies' alleged links with the former Stasi security police.

Emerging from a virtual stalemate over the Stasi allegations, they also agreed to convene parliament on April 5 and the two main parties said they were confident of forming a non-communist coalition government by the middle of next month.

After a meeting of the 12 parties elected to parliament the official news agency ADN said: "It was unanimously agreed to propose to the session that a parliamentary investigative committee (on the Stasi) be created."

Tens of thousands of pro-democracy marchers took to the streets in East Germany in a show of feeling reminiscent of last October's "people power" revolution that toppled 40 years



South African policeman battles with a trade union member (above), who was taking part in peaceful march through Pretoria to present grievances at the government Union buildings. The march was stopped by riot police using batons and dogs. (Below): A woman mourns over the body of her brother-in-law after he was killed during faction fighting in Edendale black township outside Pietermaritzburg. (Reuters wirephoto)



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Miskito rebels agree to disarm

MANAGUA, Nicaragua, March 30, (Reuters): Nicaraguan Miskito Indian rebel leaders signed an accord with the incoming Nicaraguan government yesterday under which they agreed to disarm their fighters in Honduras by April 20, the office of President-elect Violeta Chamorro said.

A communique said Chamorro's envoys negotiated the accord with the Atlantic coast Indian organisation Yatama yesterday, less than a week after Contra rebels signed a similar pact in the Honduran capital.

Similar gatherings took place all over East Germany including Leipzig, where huge weekly demonstrations spelled the beginning of the end of the Stalinist old guard.

Suspensions that up to 10 per cent of deputies were once informers for the revived Stasi police have cast doubt on East Germany's fledgling democracy and hampered attempts to form a coalition government.

The two largest parliamentary parties, the Christian Democrats (CDU) and the Social Democrats (SPD), met earlier and said they had made good progress towards forming a left-right "grand coalition" to steer the country towards unity with Bonn.

Belgium legalises abortion 'in distress'

BRUSSELS, (Reuters): Belgium legalised abortion on Thursday after years of campaigning by feminists and a handful of politicians to lift a century-old ban on the practice.

The chamber of deputies (lower house) approved by 126 votes to 69, with 12 abstentions, a law allowing abortions for women "in distress" during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy.

It was approved by parliament's second chamber, the senate, last year. Belgium had been the only country in Europe apart from Ireland to outlaw the practice.

A ban dating from 1867 has become increasingly difficult to enforce, with 15,000 abortions performed every year at non-profit clinics scattered around the country.

The new law, put forward by Socialists and Liberals, does not spell out what is meant by "distress" so that it falls short of abortion on demand but covers anything from financial worries to psychological problems.

The reform has sparked sharp divisions in this Catholic country.

While many authorities turn a blind eye to abortions, others prosecute, forcing thousands of women to travel to neighbouring countries to terminate their pregnancies.

The Belgian penal code provides for jail terms of up to five years, but sentences handed down over recent years to both doctors and patients have rarely exceeded one to three months.

Opposition to abortion is particularly strong in the northern Dutch-speaking Flanders region, while pressure for reform has come mainly from the more liberal French-speaking Walloon area in the south.

Members of Prime Minister Wilfried Martens' own Flemish Christian Democrat Party (CVP), which managed to scupper previous attempts to legalise abortion, had even threatened to bring the coalition government down over the issue.

Activists in US have started potato war over abortion

WASHINGTON, March 30, (Reuters): US pro-abortion activists are threatening to boycott Idaho's renowned potatoes and keep tourists away from the rural western state if its governor approves a bill that would ban most abortions.

The Idaho abortion bill, the most restrictive in the United States, has already been approved by the state legislature. It would ban most abortions and fine doctors who perform them.

Governor Cecil Andrus, a former US interior secretary, who has described himself as "pro-life," is contemplating whether to sign or veto the proposed legislation. He could make his choice as early as this weekend.

"If governor Andrus fails to veto this bill, he will bring more than the horror of illegal abortions to the women of Idaho," said Molly Yard, president of the National Organisation for Women (NOW). "He also risks bringing economic pain to the people of his state."

"Pro-choice" activists, led by NOW, say they will urge American citizens and businesses to boycott the vegetable that made Idaho famous if Andrus signs the bill to make it law.

Czechoslovakia's Parliament eliminates 'socialist' from country's name

PRAGUE, March 30, (AP): Czechoslovakia's Parliament yesterday approved a new name for the republic, eliminating its designation as a "socialist" state.

After weeks of stormy discussion and mounting tension between Czechs and Slovaks, parliament, with the required three-fifths majority, replaced the country's old name of "Socialist Republic of Czechoslovakia" with "Czechoslovak Federative Republic."

The new name was adopted after a 20-member committee had to be elected to work out an agreement on the thorny

issue.

In the wake of last November's peaceful revolution, everybody — even the once all-powerful communists — agreed that the epithet "socialist" no longer had any place in the Czechoslovak republic.

The name change was also accompanied by a linguistic gimmick: The Slovaks, situated in the hyphen band, will hyphenate the country's title in writing as "Czechoslovak Federative Republic," to show to outside world that Czechoslovakia contains two distinct peoples — Czechs and Slovaks.

The debate over the hyphen, character-



Kohl in Cambridge

West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl on Thursday called on Poland to acknowledge what he called the "planned injustice" committed by Poles against innocent Germans.

"We Germans are not entitled to such words, and even less must we try to balance accounts in some way or another," said Kohl.

"But I am certain that such a gesture would point the way to a future in which the relationship between the Polish and German peoples is marked by a spirit of good-neighbourliness in a common Europe."

Kohl was speaking at a dinner with Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher to mark the 40th anniversary of the Koenigstein conference. Picture shows Kohl (right) is greeted by Thatcher at Marshall's airport in Cambridge.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Europe

Prisoners sans jobs

EAST BERLIN, March 30, (Reuters): Even prisoners are not safe from a wave of unemployment sweeping East Germany.

Up to 800 convicts will be out a job, the Communist Party daily Neues Deutschland said yesterday, because two factories have cancelled production contracts with Magdeburg jail, near West Germany.

Prisoners use the money earned to pay off debts and save for their release.

East German unemployment, hidden or virtually non-existent under the former Stalinist rule of Erich Honecker, is now put at over 30,000, as the country moves from a centrally-planned system towards a free market economy in a multi-party democracy.

Moscow names envoy to Vatican: The Soviet Union has appointed Yuri Karlov, a career diplomat with long service in Italy, as its first ambassador to the Vatican, Soviet Foreign Ministry spokesman Gennady Gerasimov said in Moscow on Thursday.

In another move strengthening ties with East European countries, Pope John Paul met Czechoslovak Prime Minister Marian Calfa at the Vatican to discuss establishing diplomatic ties before his visit to Prague next month, Czechoslovak sources said. (Reuters)

IRA convicts not innocent: Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher rejected claims in a television documentary that six Irishmen jailed in 1975 for bomb attacks which killed 21 people were innocent.

She told parliament on Thursday a controversial Granada television investigation screened on Wednesday did not provide fresh evidence and refused to order an independent inquiry. (Reuters)

Azeri-Armenian clash: A Soviet Azeri was killed in fresh ethnic violence on the border of Soviet Azerbaijan and Armenia, the Iranian news agency Irna said on Thursday.

It quoted Baku radio as saying that eight Azeris were also wounded, two of them critically, in fighting on Wednesday during which the Azeris arrested four armed Armenians. (Reuters)

Basque deputies banned: Spain's top court ruled on Thursday Basque pro-separatist deputies could not take their seats in Parliament, clearing the way for Prime Minister Felipe Gonzalez to win a confidence vote next month.

The constitutional court provisionally upheld a decision by the president of Congress (lower house) to ban the four members of Herri Batasuna (HB) unless they swore the oath to the constitution. (Reuters)

Antall claims victory

Joseph Antall, president of the Hungarian Democratic Forum flashes a victory sign, as he announces at a news conference that his party claims a clear victory in Hungary's election.

The two strongest parties to emerge from first-round parliamentary elections in Hungary raced with each other on Thursday to find coalition partners, and both spoke confidently of winning over two smaller parties.

Bogota extradites suspect

Colombia's most powerful drug-smuggling cartel threatened Thursday in retaliation against the government after the extradition of a 15th drug-trafficking suspect to the United States.

The Medellin cartel has been blamed for more than 250 bombings and other terrorist attacks since last August, when it declared war on the government in retaliation for a crackdown on drug trafficking.

In a communique released Thursday, the "Extraditables," as the cartel's leaders refer to themselves, also claimed the government of President Virgilio Barco had opened secret negotiations with them. The government has denied the claim.

The cartel has offered to the past to open peace talks with the government, but the Barco administration always refused.

Amid accusations that it had softened its position and reached a secret agreement with the cartel, the Barco government extradited drug-trafficking suspect Fernando Gutierrez to the United States on Wednesday.

It was the first drug-related extradition by Barco's administration since Jan 21 and came after speculation the government had suspended the policy as part of secret negotiations. (AP)

Widespread ethnic discrimination: A 1990 US immigration law setting penalties for firms that knowingly hire illegal aliens has caused widespread ethnic discrimination, a congressional report said on Thursday in Washington.

The General Accounting Office report also said the 1986 immigration "control" and reform act had apparently reduced illegal immigration and was not an unnecessary burden on employers.

It said a survey showed that because of the new law many employers had refused to hire people because of foreign accents or appearance, hired only US-born workers, or refused to hire workers with temporary work permits. (Reuters)

Bogota extradites suspect: Colombia's most powerful drug-smuggling cartel threatened Thursday in retaliation against the government after the extradition of a 15th drug-trafficking suspect to the United States.

Beirut plunges into new round

Threat to excommunicate

BEIRUT, March 30, (AP): Gen Michel Aoun and warlord Samir Geagea plunged into a new round of full-scale fighting in Lebanon's Christian heartland today. The patriarch of their Maronite Catholic church renewed a threat to excommunicate both of them.

Police said Aoun's army and Geagea's Lebanese Forces militia were locked in savage combat in the central sector of Christian east Beirut and in the mountains of Kesrouan province, 20 miles (32 kms) northeast of the capital.

"The ceasefire has collapsed. It's past history," said a police spokesman, who cannot be named under standing rules. "It's all-out war again."

The spokesman said two people were killed and one was wounded in the clashes today. The new casualties raised the overall toll to 778 people killed and 2,157 wounded since Jan 30 when Aoun moved to try to crush the militia, the main challenger to his authority in the Christian enclave.

Thunderous blasts reverberated across Beirut and black clouds of smoke hung over the city and the hills above as fire burned out of control.

Thousands of families huddled in basements and underground shelters and radios broadcast hospital appeals for blood donations.

The warring factions accused each other of torpedoing a March 3 ceasefire called by neutral Christian mediators to halt the murderous power struggle.

Hijacker caught in night escape attempt

ORBE, Switzerland, March 30, (UPI): Convicted Lebanese hijacker Mobammed Hussein Hariri, serving a life sentence for plane hijacking and murder, was caught in a night escape attempt, the Bocubz top security prison reported yesterday.

An official statement said Hariri had managed to file through the bars of his cell but set off alarms and was found at 10.30 pm Wednesday close to the high wire fencing around the penitentiary.

"It is not known where he obtained the file or if there was an outside accomplice," the statement said.

But he was seized before he could reach the perimeter wall and placed in solitary confinement.

"He didn't quite make it," one source said.

Hariri, now 23, received a life sentence in February, 1989, for the 1987 hijacking of an Air Afrique DC-10 airliner on a flight from Brazzaville to Paris, forcing it to land at Geneva.

Demanding the release of the Hamed brothers, fellow Lebanese Shiite terrorists imprisoned in West Germany, Hariri shot a French male passenger in the back of the head before overpowering police who stormed the aircraft.

Swiss officials believe there could be a link between Hariri's sentence and the abduction last Oct 6 of two Swiss orthopedic technicians working for the International Committee of the Red Cross in the Lebanese port of Sidon.

Elio Enriquez and Emmanuel Christen are still being held hostage but the kidnappers have never made themselves known.

Hariri said in an interview with a Swiss weekly last December that every prisoner thinks about escaping, adding, "I would like to regain my freedom."

Rafsanjani brother on secret mission for hostages

BEIRUT, March 30, (Agencies): The brother of Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani secretly visited Lebanon a few days ago in an effort to negotiate the release of 18 Western hostages, the daily Ad-Diyar newspaper reported yesterday.

The newspaper, which has close links with the Syrians, said Mahmoud Rafsanjani held clandestine talks with leaders of the Iranian-inspired Hezbollah group, the organisation believed holding the foreign captives, eight of whom are Americans.

Rafsanjani also held talks with Hussein Musawi, leader of the Islamic Amal Movement, an offshoot of the pro-Syrian Amal militia group, in Lebanon's eastern Bekaa Valley, Ad-Diyar said.

Quoting sources, the newspaper said Rafsanjani's visit was part of efforts by the Iranian president to try to win the freedom for the captives. The newspaper did not say if Rafsanjani's recent trip brought the 18 hostages any closer to freedom.

Musawi's group is backed and funded by Iran. Its leader advocates establishing an

Islamic fundamentalist state in Lebanon and fighting Israel to the finish.

Analysts have speculated that the Iranian president favoured ending the hostages' plight as part of his policy to improve relations with the West.

But Iran's leading hard-liners, the analysts said, still maintain influence over Hezbollah and the abductors of the Western hostages.

Syrian troops fired on the motorcade of a hardline Shiite Muslim cleric, leader of pro-Iranian militants holding West-

ern hostages, in Beirut's southern slums yesterday.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity for reasons of personal security, said Sheikh Subhi Tofaili, secretary-general of Hezbollah, was not hurt although his car was riddled with bullets.

It was not immediately clear why the Syrians began shooting and there was no way to determine whether the clash was related to the hostages.

President George Bush wrote a letter to the 9-year-old son of a hostage, Frank Reed, urging the

boy to "stay strong".

"The president said he knows I miss my father a lot so he's doing all he can do to free the hostages," said Tarek Reed, whose third-grade class all wrote letters asking Bush for help.

Reed, the director of the Lebanese international school in Beirut, was abducted on Sept 9, 1986.

Peggy Say, known for her crusade to win the freedom of her brother Terry Anderson, and other hostages in Lebanon, has been hospitalised, her husband said yesterday.

SLAMABAD, March 30, (Reuters): The interim government set up by Pakistan-based Afghan rebels yesterday rebuffed a UN idea for the return of Afghan war refugees to "zones of tranquility" and complained of UN interference in internal affairs.

The prime minister of the Afghan interim government (AIG) Abdurrah Rasul Bayyaf said an estimated five million refugees in Pakistan and Iran would not return home until an Islamic government was set up in Afghanistan.

Sayyaf's statement, quoted by his Western-backed coalition's news agency, responded to one by a senior UN official who said the world body wanted "zones of tranquility" organised in Afghanistan so refugees could start going home.

Prince Sadruddin Aga Khan, who heads the UN office coordinating aid to Afghanistan, said on Tuesday at the end of a visit to the area that he had discussed the idea with Afghan President Najibullah and rebel leaders in Pakistan.

"I think it's time for people to think seriously of going home," he told a news conference in Kabul.

Bui Sayyaf said: "The Afghan refugees... will not go back home of their free will until their true representative Islamic government has been established."

He denied having talked about refugee repatriation with Sadruddin and said he was astounded by reports that the UN official discussed the question with authorities in Pakistan and Kabul.

"They utter one thing to us and different things to others," the media news agency quoted Sayyaf as saying about Sadruddin's talks, "such behaviour will generate serious problems."

Sayyaf said he had talked to Sadruddin only about relief to people forced by the 11-year-old war to shift from one place to another inside Afghanistan and had set out conditions for such aid.

A senior US official said yesterday he would travel to Afghanistan's border to talk to Muslim rebels in an effort to persuade them to stop producing opium.

"I will travel to Peshawar and talk to the people concerned," said Melvyn Levitsky, an assistant secretary of state for international narcotics matters.

"The war on drugs is far from won," Levitsky told a news conference after signing an agreement with India on joint efforts in fighting drug trafficking and use.

Strike, protests to mark Land Day

One shot dead in West Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM, March 30, (AP): Soldiers shot and killed a 17-year-old Palestinian in the occupied territories and Arab villages in Israel were shut down today by general strikes and protests marking Land Day.

Arabs stoned cars, held protest marches and raised Palestinian flags despite widespread efforts by the Army and police to prevent violence on Land Day, the anniversary of 1976 riots against Israel's confiscation of Arab-owned land.

Inside Israel, Arab youths set fires, threw stones and waved the outlawed red, white, black and green flags, Israeli radio reports said.

In the Arab town of Kafr Kanna north of Nazareth, several thousand Arabs attending an annual memorial service for a local teen-ager killed in 1976 were read a communique from PLO leader Yasser Arafat by Parliament member Abdul Wahab Darwish.

Arafat's message, sent by facsimile from Europe, praised Palestinians "for igniting the first spark in 1976, which led to the great fire of the uprising."

It also praised Israelis who support negotiations with Palestinians as "heroic, democratic Jews willing to make the peace of the courageous, the brave."

The general strikes were called by the PLO-backed leaders of the Palestinian uprising, the Islamic fundamentalist movement Hamas, and Arab leaders in Israel. They appeared to be universally observed, including in Arab East Jerusalem.

Protest marches by Palestinians were reported in the West Bank towns of Jenin and Yatta. In Jenin, hundreds of women and masked men marched carrying pictures of Arafat, Arab reporters said.

On the walls of the town, 27

kms (18 miles) north of Nablus, Palestinians had painted pictures of donkeys with Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's name marked under them, the reporters said.

In the West Bank town of Hebron, one wall slogan said: "On Land Day we burn the occupiers."

Jewish settlers also set up blue-and-white Israeli flags in the West Bank to emphasize their demand that Israel not give up the land captured in the 1967 Middle East war.

The flags were flying on a road leading from the fortress-like Jerusalem suburb of Gilo to the Dheisheh refugee camp, set up as Palestinians fled their homes at the founding of Israel in 1948.

Israeli media reported extra precautions by both police and the army because the protest day fell on the first Friday of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan, usually a tense day in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

The death of Mobammed Rahman Salama came during an army raid on the village of Kafr Malik, 20 kms (12 miles) north of the West Bank town of Ramallah.

Officials at Mukassad hospital in Jerusalem said Salama was dead when his family brought him to the hospital shortly after midnight, using a ladder as a stretcher.

Salama was shot in the chest when soldiers opened fire during a raid on the village, Arab witnesses said.

An army announcement said troops opened fire on masked men inciting the villagers to violence. It confirmed the death but gave no details.

To block violence on Land Day, the army declared a curfew on all 700,000 residents of the occupied Gaza Strip and four West Bank towns or villages.

One Palestinian youth was shot and wounded in the Gaza

Strip's Nuseirat refugee camp when he defied the curfew and ignored soldier's orders to halt, the army said.

Security was especially tight in Jerusalem, where thousands of Muslims often come on Friday's during Ramadan to pray at the Al Aqsa Mosque, one of the holiest sites of Islam.

Soldiers set up roadblocks on roads leading into the city and were blocking Palestinian youths from entering. Police also searched young Arab men and women before allowing them to enter Jerusalem's old city, where Al Aqsa is located.

An army statement said the soldiers were blocking "elements likely of endangering the security of the state."

In the Palestinian village of Jebel Makaber, a frequent trouble spot inside Jerusalem's borders, soldiers watched from rooftops observation post and eight jeeps full of police or paramilitary border police cruised the streets.

Despite the widespread security, dozens of Palestinian flags and freshly painted protest slogans were seen in and around Jerusalem.

Land Day commemorates protests in villages in Israel's Galilee district on March 30, 1976, when police opened fire and killed six Arabs. The protests were over seizure of Arab owned land by Israel.

The day also is marked by Palestinians, and Faisal Husseini, a leading PLO supporter in the occupied lands, said on Israeli army radio that land was what binds Israeli Arabs with the residents of the West Bank and Gaza.

"Land Day for the Palestinian nation is what gives understanding to all Palestinians that the principle of the conflict between us and Israel is over land," he said, speaking in Hebrew.



Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir holds his hand to his head as he answers questions dealing with Soviet Jewish immigration to Israel. (Reuters wirephoto)

Kuwait denounces 'grave conspiracy'

UNITED NATIONS, March 30, (Agencies): Kuwait denounced yesterday the "grave conspiracy" of allowing Soviet Jews to settle in Palestine, and urged the Security Council to stop this illegal practice.

"It is a grave conspiracy. Doors formerly open to Soviet Jewish immigrants in the United States have been closed, forcing them to go to Israel," Kuwaiti ambassador Mohammad A. Abulhasan told the 15-nation UN body.

Abulhasan spoke on the last day of a four-day debate that had been requested on February 2 by Moscow. The council met on March 15 for the first time on this issue.

No further meeting has been scheduled immediately, as efforts continue to draft a resolution that the Arabs hope will rebuke the Israel policy of settling Soviet Jews in the occupied territories and East Jerusalem.

Abulhasan said the emigration policy had been decided by powers that said the Jews had the human right to settle wherever they wanted, but denied Palestinians the same right.

The Kuwait official referred to a recent decision by Washington to limit the number of Jews allowed to settle in the United States — a decision the Arab suspect was taken in collusion with Israel.

"In effect it (the decision) sanctions illegality. It is ironic and tragic that the immigration is taking place, while Palestinian families are being deported from their own homeland for lack of proper papers," Abulhasan said.

He said every Jewish immigrant who settles in the occupied territories becomes an "armed henchman who lives in the land of others."

"If anyone has a right to settle in those territories, it is the uprooted Palestinians," he said.

The Hungarian government fired the head of Malev Airlines and announced it was resuming flights to Tel Aviv, which were halted last week because of terrorist threats linked to Jewish immigration to Israel.

Transportation Minister Andrei Derzi said Malev was resuming its regularly tri-weekly flights to Israel but would no longer operate special charter flights for Israel-bound Soviet Jews.

Hundreds of Ethiopian Jews have emigrated to Israel in the past few months and the two countries have begun discussing direct flights, a senior Ethiopian official said on Israeli radio today.

MIDEAST BRIEFS

North African ministers meet: North African defence ministers will join foreign ministers in Tunis for the Arab Maghreb Union's first meeting on regional security, officials said.

The union, which groups Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia, agreed at a Tunis summit in January to consult each other on defence. (Reuters)

Algerian polls set for June 12: The Algerian government said on Thursday multi-party local elections would go ahead on June 12 despite opposition demands for more time to organise.

"Everyone has known since December 12 that the elections could not take place later than June 12. That date is a question of respect for the law," Interior Minister Mohammed Salah Mohammadi told Algiers radio. (Reuters)

Coup plotters detained: An official Sudanese source revealed Wednesday that a number of civilian and military officers have been detained for planning to stage a coup against the military government of General Omar al-Bashir.

The source, described by the official Sudan News Agency (SUNA) as a "responsible military source," said the arrested plotters "were planning a limited movement to achieve subversive objectives." (KUNA)

Dubai pardons 200: The Gulf emirate of Dubai pardoned 200 prisoners to mark the Islamic fasting month of Ramadan, the official United Arab Emirates news agency Wam said on Thursday.

All the prisoners, who are of various nationalities, had served at least half their sentences, it said. (Reuters)

Joined for biting woman's cheek: A Palestinian who bit a Jewish woman on the cheek to prove he was an Israeli spy was jailed for three years and fined \$5,000 on Wednesday.

An Israeli court passed the sentence on Riad Mahroun Suleiman, 21, of the occupied West Bank after he confessed to assaulting the woman to prove he was not collaborating with Israel against a Palestinian uprising, Israeli news agency NTA said. (Reuters)

Japan aid for Palestinians: Japan is to give a UN agency \$2 million to buy food for Palestinian refugees in the Israeli-held West Bank and Gaza Strip. An embassy statement said Tokyo decided to extend the emergency aid to the UN Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) because of worsening living conditions for the refugees. (Reuters)

Israel lifts radio talk ban: The government has lifted a 30-year ban to permit Israeli amateur radio operators to contact fellow hobbyists in Arab countries, an official said Thursday.

But Israeli radio enthusiasts are likely to meet a wall of silence on the other side since most Arab countries still bar communications with the Jewish state. (AP)

Jews put gold up for sale: Jewish gold traders in the United States and Western Europe are currently putting on sale large amounts of the precious metal in a bid to block Arab capital from taking part in investment operations to the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

A well-placed source in Vienna bourse who requested anonymity told KUNA that Jewish traders are selling more than 10 tonnes of gold at a price three to five per cent less than London bullion market's price. (KUNA)

Robinson buried in Hasbaya: American Christian missionary William Robinson, killed by masked gunmen as he sang hymns with his family, was buried in the Protestant cemetery of south Lebanon town of Hasbaya in Israel's self-designated "security zone" Thursday.

His American widow, Barbara, his four weeping sons and 29 handicapped Lebanese children he was caring for in the neighbouring village of Rashaya Foukar attended the funeral at Hasbaya's church. (AP)

Israel to annex border strip: Lebanon said on Thursday that Israel appeared to be planning the annexation of 40 square kilometres (15.5 square miles) of Lebanese territory.

In a letter to Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar, Lebanese Charge d'Affaires Chawki Choucri said Israel recently built a 12-kilometre (7.5 mile) road in the Chabaa region of southern Lebanon, between two and five kilometres (1.5 and 3 miles) from the international frontier, on territory seized in April 1989. (Reuters)

New Turkish minister appointed: Prime Minister Yildirim Akbulut, shaken by the second resignation from his cabinet in five weeks, appointed a new finance minister Thursday, amid speculation that his government was crumbling.

Akbulut appointed Adnan Kahveci, 40, as finance minister, replacing Ekrem Pakdemirli, who resigned late Wednesday following criticism against the government because of its mishandling of the situation in the Kurdish territories. (UA)

UAE police seize heroin: The United Arab Emirates police have seized over 17 kilograms (37.4 lbs) of heroin with a street value of about 2.5 million dirhams (\$681,000), police sources said Thursday.

The haul was made in four separate raids in recent months in the southern port emirate of Dubai, 160 kilometres (100 miles) from the capital, the sources said. (AP)

Saudi jewel thief sentenced: A court has given a five-year jail sentence to a man convicted of stealing \$20 million US worth of jewellery from a royal palace in Saudi Arabia, the Bangkok Post newspaper said Thursday.

The Bangkok criminal court sentenced Kriangkrai Tejamoke on Wednesday, the newspaper said. (AP)

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KUWAIT ... GULF

OIC salutes Palestinian struggle against Zionists

Join forces, Arab world told on Land Day

JEDDAH, March 30. (Kuna): The Organization of Islamic Conference (OIC) saluted here yesterday the struggle of the Palestinian people against their Zionist enemy, while calling on the international community to extend increased material and political assistance to the Palestinians.

In a statement marking the 14th anniversary of 'land day' OIC's Secretary-General Dr Hamid Al Ghabid said, "I would like to salute the souls of the innocent martyrs who fell in defending the land and its independence, and to express my respect and admiration for the steadfast heroes of the intifada."

He added that the OIC "reiterates full support and assistance to the Palestinian peace initiative and invites all states and

international organisations to extend their support to the just struggle of the Palestinian people."

Developments

The Palestinian uprising, he contended, "has shaken the ground under the feet of the Zionist enemy and thwarted its aggressive and expansionist plans and dreams."

"Land Day celebrations are emotion filled for millions of Muslims throughout the world in view of their link with the Holy Land, the Land of the Ascension, Land of the Blessed Mosque of Al Aqsa and the Holy Precinct of Al Haram, Land of Radiance, and of the emergence of the prophets, peace be upon them," the statement concluded.

Meanwhile, a report by Kuna's research and information dept said the Land Day celebrations this year coincide with important developments on the international, Arab and Palestinian arenas.

Four days ago, local councils in the territories occupied since 1948 have called for an open strike to protest Israeli measures to choke off the Palestinian economy.

Despite the Palestinian uprising and the Land Day demonstrations, the Zionist enemy continued its policies of terror and liquidation against the Palestinian people in order to force them to evacuate their homes.

The move will provide the Zionists and the imperialists with the opportunity to

resettle Soviet Jewish immigrants in the occupied Arab lands.

The Arab world should join forces to confront this crime of the decade which international public opinion had failed to react in any form before it succeeds in liquidating the Palestinian existence in the occupied Arab territories.

The preoccupation of Arabs away from what is happening in the Palestinian arena, due to inter-Arab differences, represents a fatal gap preventing a unified Arab effort to confront Zionist plans.

"We all hope that the Land Day anniversary will push unified Arab efforts to its right course to shoulder its historic national responsibility."

Master plan consultants to concentrate on housing

CONSULTANTS who are undertaking the 3rd revision of the master plan of the state have been called upon to concentrate on the acute housing scenario in the country, according to a high-ranking Kuwaiti official.

Speaking on the issue, the Minister of State for Housing Affairs, Naser Al Roudhan called on the consultants to accord priority concern to this issue as the National Housing Authority (NHA) has utilised all lands allocated for its projects. To meet applications of government houses that have been submitted to the NHA, consultants will have to develop recommendations to find ways and means of obtaining adequate lands.

The minister pointed out that the five-year-plan of NHA for 1990/95 include the building of 30,000 housing units to meet the backlog of applications. Presently, available lands can only accommodate 12,000 houses, which translate into 40 per cent of planned projects, leaving a balance of 18,000 houses to be built.

The official disclosed that the previous revision of the master plan had recommended on establishing border cities. However, he pointed out that these border cities would be prone to many shortages in services as is the case in border cities in any other country. As citizens will refuse to live at these border cities due to lack of amenities and services, the official called for addressing this issue and also recommended that some studies should be conducted on the feasibility of building houses inside Kuwait City in the area of the 3rd Ring Road.

British envoy

KUWAIT, March 30. (Kuna): Minister of Defense Sheikh Nawaf Al Ahmed Al Jaber yesterday received at his office Britain's new ambassador to Kuwait Michael Charles S. Weston on the occasion of assuming office here.

Cordial talks were exchanged during the meeting.



Training centres visited

Several delegations comprising principals and headmistresses from the Ministry of Education visited the Industrial Training Centre and Electricity and Water Training Centre of the Public Authority For Applied Education and Training (PAAET).

The delegations were received by the director of the centre Abdurhaman Al Mutawa and Jassem Abdurahim.

Uniform management pattern necessary: Sha't

Call to upgrade Arab capabilities

THE regional delegate member of Arab Engineering and Administration and Training Affairs specialist Taher Sha't has stressed on the need for a uniform Arab management pattern based on an earnest national decision on the recommendations of researchers, academicians, and experts representing various Arab activities.

He told a local daily the development of local administration must be based on two considerations: one representing the consolidation of the capabilities of the Arab director/administrator through modern day concepts of administration and the other to accord top priority of operation to Arab workforce. Particular focus should be placed on the rationalisation of the use of expatriate workforce in a manner to meet the requirements of applied development techniques in the Arab world.

In Kuwait, he said, it was an essentially important step to form the higher committee for administrative development to ensure steady upgrading and development of existing administrative levels and the modernisation of the administrative apparatus in the country.

He added that the existing level of administrative development in Kuwait reflected a sense of maturity of application adding that the Kuwaiti individual has great efficiency in enriching his administrative skills and utilising field expertise acquired by advanced countries.

He pointed out that the obstructive bureaucratic systems still enforced at certain ministries and government ministries were the result of blind application without any regular updating in response to development requirements. These systems were far from catering to modern administration methodologies, particularly since they mainly deal with legal affairs and this led to loss of money, efforts and energy at the expense of public interests.

Training

The existing Arab administrative systems still need many training programmes and intensive efforts to be able to qualify the required workforce cadres and enable them to fully implement their development plans to the optimum level desired Sha't said.

He added that administrative development is a collective responsibility that required great government support both legislatively and politically. He pointed out that the uses of computers in the Arab world had been confined to narrow fields, such as storage of data, compared with the computer uses and applications in Western countries.

The significance of computers in modern administration techniques, which among other things led to the simplification of measures speeding up transaction processing and minimising potential occurrences of mistakes, Sha't said.

Cheese prices up by 60pc

PRICES of cheese have increased since the beginning of this year and has witnessed a further rise at the start of the holy month of Ramadan, which for many is a month of desserts and confectioneries — desserts like Kanafa which primarily depend on cheese.

At one of the cheese import companies, the commercial and financial manager, Najeh Nassef said that after the political reforms in East bloc states, many manually operated cheese factories have been transformed into mechanically operated factories. The transition has caused a supply problem as many Arabic desserts almost totally rely on imported cheese.

He indicated that prices of cheese have registered an increase of 60 per cent. However, he said that some specific types of cheese have witnessed a decrease in prices due to the competition between the main agents and distributors. He said that cheese imported from some Arab countries was also affected by the increase in prices, but the percentage was negligible.

Regulations

Among the main exporters in the Arab states, Egypt is considered to be in the forefront, he said, but added that due to Egyptian import and export regulations adopted lately, obstacles have arisen. On the other hand, Jordanian cheese is prohibited to be exported at certain times of the year, he said.

At another company, general manager, Shaker Al Samman stated that they depend on imported hand-made cheese which is now unavailable and prices have shot up. He said that he has lost hope that the market will return to its previous status adding that it is a good opportunity for Arab states to concentrate on cheese manufacturing. Samman pointed out that Kuwait local market consumes 20,000 tons of cheese annually.

Withdrawal of investment firms from bourse demand

Matter requires study: Khaled

THE withdrawal of investment companies from the stock market is an issue that will need serious considerations at high levels, Kuwait's Minister of Commerce and Industry, Faisal Abdurrazzak Al Khaled was quoted as saying.

In an interview with a local daily in the wake of his meeting with the tripartite committee which had been formed by private intermediaries companies in the bourse, the minister said that the market committee was empowered to study the positions of the companies dealing in the bourse with the objective of deciding whether these companies were efficient to practice the intermediary profession in the bourse.

The official said that he had listened to the points of view of the private companies in this respect and added that he had informed these companies that this task had been empowered to the Stock Market Committee and discussion will be held at its first meeting.

He confirmed that the private companies demand for withdrawing investment companies from the bourse should be carried out through the representatives of the intermediary companies at the Stock Market Committee.

Speaking of the existence of the investment companies in the bourse and whether they are legally accepted, the minister said that these companies had been given licences to work in the bourse and to practice intermediary activities as recommended by the Stock Market Committee which was then presided over by the Minister of Finance.

Review

However, he went on to explain that though this issue had been debated at that time by all parties concerned, including the

representative of the private sector in the bourse, the dealers, the intermediaries, in addition to the representatives of the Ministries of Finance and Commerce and Industry, the Central Bank and the stock market administration, in the light of recent developments, the issue should be reviewed.

The minister categorically denied the existence of the investment companies in the bourse is in reaction to a threat issued by the private companies to go on strike. He said that all intermediaries were co-operative and showed mutual understanding. However, he said that if some people complain of the current services at the stock market, it could be attributed to the financial standing of these intermediaries.

Therefore, he said that the official authorities are keen to select companies of good financial standing and experience in order to play the intermediary role perfectly. He queried as to why the issue of investment companies in the bourse was being raised at this juncture? He commented that when dealings in the bourse were active everybody expressed satisfaction, and now that there is a retreat, causes for complaints are being highlighted. He commented that the investment companies are not the only ones to be blamed, adding the role of brokers could not be ruled out as they are also instrumental, just like every bourse throughout the world.

On the other hand, Khaled confirmed that the Union of the Co-operative Societies had reduced the prices of some consumer goods and also had enhanced some other prices, adding that this action had been taken in the light of comprehensive study held between the representatives of the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the Ministry of Social Affairs and Labour, and the union.

He added if any merchant would like to increase his prices, in this case the union will follow up the issue through the price committee and the relevant merchant should submit the necessary evidence justifying his action.

Haj insurance raised

Caravan owners protest decision

OWNERS of pilgrimage caravans have voiced their protest against the decision of the Ministry of Awqaf to increase the amount of insurance to be paid to obtain licences to run their caravans to the Holy Lands from the existing amount of KD 8,000 to KD 10,000 and have called for the amount to be fixed at KD 5,000.

Further, owners have rejected the ministry's decision to prohibit them from using buses manufactured prior to 1980 and underscored the fact that their vehicles are in excellent condition as they are used only for the pilgrimage season. Additionally, they have rejected the modification of prices of transportation and living.

An owner, Mohammed Al Enzi said that the pilgrimage caravans will be leaving for the Holy Lands on June 13, 1990 and said that it is natural that prices will differ according to the level of services offered by various firms.

Commenting on the increase in insurance, he said that it is an unfair decision by the Ministry of Awqaf, considering the fact that owners extend themselves to provide the highest level of services to pilgrims and increasing the amount will restrict the availability of funding for these services. He also called on the ministry to allocate a complex of air-conditioned prefabricated houses to be used as offices for caravans during summer.

Another owner, Barrak Al Barrak claimed that they perform their work as a religious duty and do not think of making huge profits. He said that there are about 66 caravans in Kuwait that give Muslims a wide range of selection and said that it is true that several owners of pilgrimage caravans have begun suffering losses.

He added that landlords in Makkah have increased rents of their buildings because the Ministry of Awqaf in Kuwait obliges Kuwaiti caravans to stay in Azzia area in Makkah. The rent of a building has increased from 100,000 Saudi riyals last year to \$250,000 this year and the minimum rent of a building in Makkah is 150,000 riyals this year, he said.

He explained that prices of Kuwaiti caravans range between KD300 to KD350 for each pilgrim which is considered reasonable. He further said that the caravans are distributed in three areas in Kuwait which are not organised areas and do not have power or telephone services as well as air-conditioned facilities. He called on the ministry to allocate a fixed designated area for all caravans and called on Muslims who want to perform pilgrimage this year to register their names early to avoid any last minute confusion.

Mohammed Al Ajmi said that his caravan takes KD210 as price for pilgrims who want to go in air-conditioned buses, KD280 for those who want to go in salon cars and KD230 for going in buses of the Kuwait Public Transportation Company. He added that increase of insurance might push some caravans to increase their prices although they are increased by 20 per cent this year compared to last year. He called to reduce the insurance to KD5,000 because fines that might be assessed on the violating caravans will not exceed KD5,000. He added that Kuwaitis are proud of the good reputation of Kuwaiti caravans which is a proof that they abide by decisions and rules of the Ministry of Awqaf.

Meanwhile, the assistant undersecretary of Ministry of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs for Pilgrimage and Mosques Abdul Rahman Al Fares said the ministry is taking required procedures to run the pilgrimage caravans regularly this year and also will do its best to facilitate all formalities of pilgrims.

Commenting on decision of the ministry to increase the insurance on pilgrimage caravans to KD 10,000, he said that this decision was taken by the Higher Pilgrimage Committee and there is no intention to reduce the amount. He added that insurance will be paid again for owners of caravans on their return if they abide by the regulations.

Kuwaiti rent allowance

THE rent allowance of KD100 per month allocated to Kuwaiti employees will not be increased at the moment according to the rent allowances controller at Kuwait's National Housing Authority (NHA) Fuad Malallah.

In an interview with a local daily, Malallah said that the authority had previously announced that citizens entitled to rent allowance necessary documents clarifying the rent value paid for the months of the December 1989, January and February of the instant year in addition to the latest salary certificate to ensure that recipients salaries are still below KD700.

He added that the authority had decided to extend the closing date of the contact period up to April 19 in order to enable all the relevant citizens to communicate with the authority to receive the allowance over the last three months.

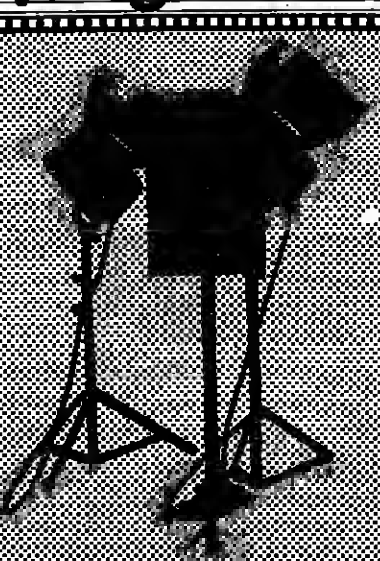
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Oil installations secured, says Ahmadi governor

KUWAIT, March 30. (Kuna): Governor of Ahmadi Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem has said that the authorities are extending all support to the security force to protect oil installations in the governorate.

"We are co-operating with the citizens and concerned companies on oil installations to avoid any loopholes," said Sheikh Ali in an interview

with a local daily. In reply to a question, the governor disclosed the presence of "sea and land plans" to curb smuggling operations through the borders, indicating that the "land plan," which started four months ago, will be completed at the end of this year.

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Ramadan commodities easily available in co-ops

Prices vary in different places

THE secretary of the Kuwait Union of Consumer Co-operative Societies Bader Al-Jad'an has said that all consumer commodities usually in high demand during the holy month of Ramadan have been made available in large quantities to meet customers requirements.

He told a local daily that of these commodities, Qamer Edean and Jarresh are highly in demand and cold drinks such as Vimto and confectionery come next in the most highly selling

commodities during this month. He said that the union is greatly concerned to ensure that no price jumps will occur during this month beyond the normally acceptable rates, adding that the union main task is to provide all sorts of consumer commodities at reasonable prices.

Meanwhile, the chairman of the board at the Andalus Co-operative Society Bajjad Bo Ramia stressed that all sorts of consumer commodities are available in large quantities and

at reasonable prices. He said that there is no intention on the society's part to make price increases. Working hours during Ramadan begin at 7.30 in the morning till 11.30 and work will be resumed from seven after 11.30 till midnight, where the night service takes over.

The Keifan supermarket manager Nabil Ismael stressed the supermarket's efforts to ensure the provision of all high-selling Ramadan consumer commodities in adequate quantities

to meet different consumers tastes at moderate prices. The director of the Central Market at Abdullah Al Salem Area said that the supermarket has made considerable reductions in the prices of certain commodities, due to large number of suppliers and the possibility to get reduced offers.

He said that the high-selling commodities at the market are the raisins, pineapple, walnut, macaroni and others and that operation hours start at 8 in the

morning till 2 after midnight.

A number of consumers have also been interviewed by the daily who respectively stressed that they faced no difficulty in getting their supplies of the different commodities at reasonable and acceptable prices.

One consumer said that certain commodities are available in sufficient quantities at one society, but are not so abundantly available in others, adding that the prices also varied from society to another.

Quarantine facility at airport complete: Sultan

WHO films anti-brucellosis campaign

THE deputy director-general of Kuwait's Public Authority for Agriculture Affairs and Fish Resources Dr Sultan Ahmed Sultan was quoted as saying the veterinary quarantine project at Kuwait International Airport has been completed.

In an interview with a local daily, the official said that the setting up of such a quarantine facility at the airport aims at enabling veterinary authorities to arrange for necessary medical tests on all animals and birds which may arrive in the country by air.

He added that all the incoming animals and birds will be subject to the necessary quarantine, irrespective of whether these animals or birds have arrived accompanied by owners or through separate airfreight.

He added that the quarantine period could be defined by the relevant veterinary authority and in the light of the health situation of the relevant countries and in the light of the health certificate which should be brought along with the incoming animals and birds.

He added that the quality of the veterinary care in each country will define the quarantine period and further added that the animals or birds who arrive in the country without health certificates will be subject to a longer

period at the quarantine.

He confirmed the co-ordination existing between the veterinary authorities and authorities concerned at Directorate General for Civil Aviation (DGCA) as well as the Customs Department to make sure that all the incoming animals and birds should be passed on to the veterinary quarantine to ensure that these animals and birds were free of any virus that may cause infectious diseases. Dr Sultan also said that a special film has of late been prepared to demonstrate ways to combat the common cattle disease known as brucellosis, under the sponsorship of the World Health Organisation.

Speaking to Kuna, he said that Kuwait was selected by WHO to shoot this film, in appreciation of Kuwait's consistent efforts in fighting brucellosis during the years from 1987 to 1989 and the vaccination of cows against this disease in 1985.

This film is to be used in the field of education and guidance to demonstrate the danger of how the disease-causing virus could pass from sick animals to human beings and how to prevent this process.

He said that Kuwait managed to reduce the number of cases in

humans and also in animals, such as sheep, goat and cows, pointing out that the percentage of contracting the disease dropped in cows from 9.7 in 1986 to 4.6 per cent in 1989, and in sheep and goats from 11 to 6.6 per cent in 1989.

The specialists assigned to shoot the film stayed in the country for ten years and took snapshots of flocks of sheep, goats and camels in the Kuwaiti desert, in Kabad, Abdali, Managash and others, the official said.

The film also contains scenes of an aboriginal goat and instances of immunising animals in the area of Hamadiyah and also scenes on how to deal with dairy animals, Sultan said.

He added that the film also demonstrated ways to examine sick animals by skin tests and lab tests to reveal the disease causing agent. A series of scenes were taken at the Central Slaughterhouse to demonstrate ways to segregate sick animals whose diseases were contractable by humans, such as brucellosis.

The specialists assigned to make the film carried out interviews with veteran vets at different labs in the country, adding that these efforts led to a considerable reduction in the number of cases registered, Sultan said.

Action Line

I WOULD like to know if we are allowed to install a cordless phone at home. I've heard that they have been banned but also came to know that the ban has been lifted. If we are allowed to install them, do we have to obtain permission and in case it's not allowed, then what are the charges against using one.

Victor Abraham

SAMI AL AMER, director of frequency and wireless licences department at the Ministry of Communication, said that wireless devices with powerful transmission such as equipment which can transmit messages to neighbouring countries are banned in Kuwait. Violators are punished, according to the law. The ministry, he said, has monitoring stations which record any such violation.

Amer said the cordless home phones are allowed for use in Kuwait, provided the frequency of such phones does not exceed 300 mw. To install them, an approval from the Ministry of Communications must be obtained; the ministry checks the equipment to ensure that their frequencies are not more than the maximum limit allowed.

I AM residing in Kuwait's Andalus suburb. My employer told me not to change my postal address, which is in Rumaihiya. For the last eight years, I have been getting letters. Now, suddenly, the Rumaihiya post office is returning to the sender all letters addressed to me. My "mama" has made arrangements to have my letters collected from the previous address. I don't know why my letters are going back.

Marta D. Bantista

LETTERS are sent back only if the addressee is not available on a certain address. As you don't stay in Rumaihiya, probably the new people in the house are returning your mail. It would be better to check with them before taking up the matter with the post office, which we suggest must be done in person.

I WOULD like to know the procedure regarding the transfer of registration of a vehicle under the name of an owner who is now not in Kuwait and has no intention of coming back. The previous owner went on vacation and due to some personal problems, he could not return. He has resigned from his post. I made a verbal agreement over the phone to buy his car and the payment will be made on registration of the vehicle on my name.

Please advise what documents are required to do the needful.

J. Fernandez

CONTACT the owner of the car and ask him to send a power of attorney to transfer his car in your name. And this document should be stamped by the Embassy of Kuwait in his country for authentication. After the document comes here, it must be authenticated by the authorities in Kuwait as well. You can present the power of attorney to the traffic department, and they will do the needful to transfer the vehicle in your name.

There is another procedure, which is rather prolonged, and requires you to file a case against the owner of the car and get a judgement in your favour saying that the car was bought by you. In this instance, you have to prove through eye-witness testimony the verbal agreement made between you and the owner.

I AM a domestic helper. I want to know if an employee doesn't want your service, or an employer doesn't pay your salary, can I ask him to send me back to my country? If he suggest I seek a transfer of residence, can I refuse? If a domestic helper is deported, what is the procedure for coming back?

Jester

ANY domestic helper, or any employee, who wants to work anywhere will first ask about the salary and working conditions; if he doesn't, he should.

When an employee accepts a job, he or she should know about the working conditions and the salary he can expect from his employer. If you knew the conditions and the terms of the contract, you don't have the right to refuse work.

If you have not completed the contract, it is up to the employer whether they want to deduct all the expenses they paid to bring you to the country. Legally, and contractwise, it is not right to leave the employer in mid-term. It is advisable to settle the matter amicably and finalise the matter kindly. A domestic helper is not covered by the labour law. The only way is to settle the matter amicably. Or you would have to file a case in the court.

If an expatriate is deported from Kuwait, he or she must get a pardon from the Minister of Interior to re-enter Kuwait. If a pardon is granted, then he can re-enter on a fresh visa.

If you have a problem, drop in a line to Action Line, Arab Times, P.O. Box 2270, Safat, Kuwait or fax your questions to us on Tel: 4847495.

Use recognised shipping lines, importers warned

By Ahmad Ayash

SOURCES of Kuwait Chamber of Commerce and Industry said that about 1000 tons of the total consignments on board the "Barns" that was seized for five months at Bombay Port belong to Kuwaiti importers. They added that these importers will bear additional costs of freight because their goods were transferred to another ship called "Khuzam-3".

Meanwhile, a member of board of United Arab Shipping Company Shaker Al Saman said that such acts of seizing ships will lead to the increase in dependence of importers on ships of UASC or international shipping companies that are owned by marine transportation unions that are recognised by the world.

The head of legal department at the Kuwait Chamber of Commerce Essam Al Samman said that ship "Khuzam-3" carrying the Barns reshipment also loaded other goods at Dubai port and will arrive in Kuwait within com-

ing few days. He said that goods loaded for Kuwaiti importers and merchants on the ship are 1,000 tons of foodstuffs and construction materials.

The ship Barns that was hired by the British Shipping Company-Thames carried different goods for 53 merchants to the world including 17 Kuwaiti merchants and importers from Brazil to Gulf ports. But the ship was seized for five months because Thames was about to be bankrupt.

The shipping company is so much in debt that creditor banks were obliged to seize the ship in Bombay. These banks will pay 30 per cent of the additional freight charges while Kuwaiti and other importers will pay the second half.

Sania from UASC called on importers to use recognised shipping lines to avoid such problems. He added that operations of these lines are secured although their prices are little more than other lines.



Mostafa (above left) and Fouad show photographs of their journey by foot.

(Below) Italian Ambassador Marco Colombo with the mobike team Roberto Ceccarelli (second right), his brother Mauro, Umberto Sabbatini, Sergio Caporilli, Maurizio Arduini and Mauro Rossini.



Befriending the world on mobike and foot

Moroccan, Italian travellers in Kuwait

By Jadranka Porter
Arab Times Staff

WITH Iran rather inhospitable to foreign adventurers Kuwait is increasingly becoming a crossing point for travellers seeking to set new records while traversing continents on foot, camelback, by plane, bike or motorcycle.

Two such groups, Moroccan and Italian, converged on the Gulf state last week. At first sight they had little but wonderlust in common. But as they compared notes in a lively conversation after a chance meeting it was obvious that they shared much more than a desire for adventure. Both groups spoke of an ideal, a world without boundaries, wars and violence. They were eager to learn about cultures other than their own and pass on their experience through movies and books they plan to produce about their adventure. And yes, they hope to make an entry into record books. The six Italians travelling on motorbikes from Rome to Peking claim they are the first to undertake the 22,000 km journey. The two Moroccans from Casablanca, who are following in the footsteps of Ibn Battuta, an 18th century scholar, hope to be the first Arabs after their renowned countryman to reach China on foot.

But Bouh Ahmed Fouad, 27, and 29-year-old Moubatih Mostafa hope to go further, to Spain, via Australia, Latin and North America. They plan to walk into Barcelona, from the nearby airport (they have to fly over the Atlantic), in the summer of 1992 in the time for the Olympics.

By the time the Moroccans reach the subcontinent the Italians will hopefully have their adventure wrapped up. The group, led by Roberto Ceccarelli, that left their home town Rome on March 11 plans to get to Peking on May 31. The six men, all motorcycle buffs, took one year to prepare for the trip. They are backed by the Italian Motorcyclist Federation and a host of sponsors, whose contribution will cover 30 per cent of the entire cost of the trip. The boys hope that the rest that comes from their savings will be compensated by the sales of the documentary they are filming along the trip and the book they plan to produce at the end of the trip.

Fouad and Mostafa also plan to write about their trip. But it won't be a traveller's guide or a simple record of an adventure. It will be a study of different customs and social practices, says Fouad a computer programmer. Both experienced travellers, the Moroccans set out on their journey to spread their message of peace and friendship. They say the idea was born as they learnt of the innocent people's suffering in war-torn countries such as Lebanon, El Salvador and South Africa.

The pair who left the Atlantic port of Casablanca on Feb 7th have walked much of the North Africa, at times more than 30 km a day. The effort was not over-taxing for either, as Fouad is a footballer and Mostafa an athlete. But they also hitch-hiked and took a bus when the land they were crossing was particularly inhospitable such as the 1,067 km stretch of the Sahara desert between Benghazi and Tripoli in Libya.

Although not backed by an official organisation the Moroccans have received help from new acquaintances, Moroccan expatriates and media. When they run out of money they work, as shop assistants, waiters or take whatever jobs are available.

Waiting

With Saudi Arabia not too far both teams had to take a break in Kuwait. The Italians loaded their high performance Aurelia motorbikes on a boat to Abu Dhabi and they followed by plane. This is not cheating but out of necessity, they say. The Moroccans remain in Kuwait to wait for a visa to Saudi Arabia.

From the Gulf the route is the same for both teams, from Oman to Karachi, Pakistan by boat and then through India to China by road.

The Italians were quite pleased to see Kuwait, for the Kuwaitis, whether they know it or not, are in fact helping finance the adventure. Among the group's sponsors is the Italian Mobil which was recently bought by the Kuwait Petroleum Corporation.

Summing up the spirit of their adventure, and that of the Moroccans, Roberto says: "We are friends to all the world." And even if that world has not always been a friend to them they will be happy if by the time they complete their journey someone somewhere along their route has got their message.

14 females trapped in elevator rescued

PANDEMONIUM reigned and near tragedy was averted with the timely arrival of the fire-brigade personnel to rescue 14 female students from the Medical College in Jabriya who had been trapped in the elevator of the college for two hours and 30 minutes.

The incident began when the General Fire Fighting Department and Jabriya Police Station received a report stating that 14 female students at the college were locked in the college elevator.

Sources said that one of the female students was in the fourth month of her pregnancy, several females in the stalled lift lost consciousness and other were screaming in desperation.

A local daily stated that firemen came to the rescue in the nick of time as the excessive weight threatened to snap the elevator wires.

Crime file

Jewel thief arrested

CAPITAL securitymen arrested Mahmoud A. Jordanian, for stealing jewels from a house in Dahiyat Abdullah Al Salem estimated to cost over KD 6,000. The accused guided the police to his friend, Salahuddin M. Jordanian, where he had hidden the jewellery with him. The two accused were referred to concerned authorities for further investigations.

AHMADI securitymen arrested Kamul N. and Surachai F., both Thais on the charge of selling locally made liquor. The two men were caught red handed and the instruments they used to manufacture liquor were seized.

CAPITAL securitymen arrested Adel A., non-Kuwaiti and Faisal A. Kuwaiti, while trying to force open two cars and steal valuables. The cars were parked at a hospital parking. The securitymen caught the two men red handed and seized the metal wire they used to open the cars. During investigation, the two confessed carrying out several other thefts in various areas in the country.

Customs stores

KUWAIT, March 30. (Kuna): Director-General of the Public Authority for Customs Ibrahim Al Ghanim today stressed the importance of a plan to establish public customs stores in a preparatory step for a customs free zone in the future.

In a press conference on recent customs regulation amendments Ghanim said the plan will be executed this year and that a private company will manage it and that the government will partly finance costs.

He anticipated great success for the idea saying Kuwait's strategic location was sure to lure transit trade.

Privatisation of mobile phone service approved

THE Council of Ministers has approved a request by the Ministry of Communications to give up control of the mobile telephone service and related systems to a new private company to be set up by the ministry. Sources close to the Council of Ministers said the council decided to form a committee under the chairmanship of the minister of communications and memberships of the Ministers of Commerce and Industry, Finance and Information to study the executive steps of transferring control of Mobile Telephone service and systems to the proposed private company and the establishment of the company.

The ministry has reportedly requested the council to approve the establishment of a new company to manage and operate its mobile service systems, due to the continued financial and administrative problems borne by the ministry as a result of controlling this service.

Meanwhile, a senior official at the Ministry of Communications has revealed the ministry's intention to introduce a new telephone service, which will enable subscribers to dial a certain number and learn all information about their bills, due payments and other relevant matters.

The official said that this service will contribute to the ministry's constant efforts to develop work performance and optimise its subscriber services, and will also help subscribers avoid having their lines disconnected for failure to pay over-due bills.

Investments

The legislative committee as the Council of Ministers yesterday held a meeting under the chairmanship of the Minister of State for Cabinet Affairs Rashed Al Rashed during which it endorsed a number of official protocols relating to agreements concluded by Kuwait with different Arab and European countries to protect and encourage investments in these countries.

Rashed said the committee revealed that two agreements would be signed with France and Hungary involving the promotion of investments between Kuwait and these countries.

He added that the committee agreed to the agreement proposed for signing between Kuwait and China to promote economic and technical co-operation, and a third agreement to be signed with Egypt on the exchange of prisoners to complete serving their terms in their respective countries.



Defence delegation

A DELEGATION from the Ministry of Defence visited the Communications and Aviation Centre at the Public Authority for Applied Education and Training.

On arrival, the delegation was received by the centre director, Jassem Al Zanki and the Administrative and Financial Undersecretary Bader Al Farhan.

The delegation visited number of sections at the centre including workshops, and different technical laboratories. They also took a look at the scientific capabilities at the Centre and a number of training sections.

EDITORIALS

ARAB TIMES

Thought for today

SELF conquest is the greatest of victories — Plato.
Greek philosopher (about 427 BC - 347 BC)N-programme advanced
Iraq stirs a
hornets' nest

NICOSIA, Cyprus, (AP): Iraq's apparent attempt to acquire triggering devices for nuclear weapons underlines its long-term efforts to challenge Israel's military dominance in the Middle East.

The alleged smuggling attempt, foiled Wednesday in London, also raised fears among some officials and analysts that a new arms race was under way in the region.

On Wednesday, US and Israeli officials reiterated their past warnings about the spectre of nuclear proliferation in the Middle East. But most analysts believe Iraq is still years away from actually producing a nuclear weapon.

Triggers
Still, Iraq's efforts to obtain nuclear triggers, coupled with its development of long-range missiles and chemical weapons, has raised concerns that its nuclear programme may be more advanced than anyone thought.

The arrest of three people in London on Wednesday for allegedly trying to smuggle US-made triggers known as krypton to Iraq was the latest in a chain of indications that Iraq is capable of developing high-technology weapons.

Last December, Iraq launched a rocket it said could be used to put a satellite into space orbit. It also claims to have developed missiles with a range of 750 miles (1,200 kilometres).

In December, US officials confirmed the launch "of a rocket capable of putting a satellite into orbit."

But Western intelligence sources said the launch was less successful than at first believed. They said the rocket only flew for just over two minutes, reaching an altitude of 12-15 miles (20 kilometres) before plunging back to earth.

Nonetheless, some analysts believed that it put Iraq on the threshold of ballistic missile capability.

Richard Murphy, former US assistant secretary of state and a Middle East expert, told a conference on Iraq in London earlier this month that Iraq's missile programme has made "extraordinary progress."

"This progress generally carries an ominous overtone and not just in the United States," he said. "Its genuine scientific achievements are clouded by associated reports of Iraqi progress in chemical weapons and biological warfare research."

Iraq has achieved this despite the efforts of the United States and the six industrialised nations to halt the proliferation of missiles by cutting off the flow of sensitive technology to Third World countries.

Restrict
Attempts to restrict access to missile technology have been undercut by the emergence of sophisticated arms industries in Latin America, Asia and the Middle East.

China has supplied missiles in the past to Iran and Iraq, but says it has stopped doing so.

But Western intelligence officials said North Korea has offered to sell missiles to at least five Middle Eastern states. Syria and Iran among them, or help them develop such weapons.

Iraq also is developing long-range missiles. Syria and Saudi Arabia have missiles capable of hitting targets in Israel. Libya is believed to be seeking Chinese M-9 missiles.

Israel, faced with the challenge to its long-held technological superiority, now has the nuclear-capable Jericho-II weapon, with an estimated range of up to 370 miles (600 kilometres).

It recently tested an advanced version, Jericho-II, with a reported range of more than 1,000 miles (1,600 kilometres), enough to hit targets anywhere in the region and even Soviet territory.

Iraqi officials deny Baghdad is trying to build nuclear weapons. But the rapid strides it has made in military technology and President Saddam Hussein's regional ambitions, coupled with the lack of a formal peace treaty with Iran, has caused widespread concern.

"Iraq is being unnecessarily grandiose in its military preparations," Simon Henderson, editor of the London-based Mideast Markets newsletter, told the London conference.

"Western officials consider the amount it spends on defence to be totally out of proportion to that necessary to meet any threat of renewed hostilities with Iran."

Arsenal
"Instead, they foresee that by the end of the decade Iraq will have the largest arsenal in the region of unconventional weapons — principally medium-range missiles with sophisticated warheads, including chemical and nuclear weapons."

Last December, Mideast Markets reported that Iraq was trying to build a nuclear bomb with Chinese help.

The newsletter said the Chinese have provided Baghdad with components for high-speed centrifuges that produce the highly enriched uranium needed for nuclear weapons.

But it estimated that it could be 10 years before Iraq would be capable of testing such a weapon. Israeli officials have said Iraq is probably much closer than that.

Israeli warplanes bombed a French-built nuclear reactor near Baghdad in June 1981, charging that the Iraqis were developing nuclear weapons.

Some analysts believe that Baghdad's efforts to get its hands on nuclear triggers indicates it is well down the road to nuclear weapons capability.

But Don Kerr, a military specialist with the London-based International Institute for Strategic Studies, said in a telephone interview that he believed Iraq's nuclear programme is still in the theoretical stage because of the problems of getting hold of weapons-grade material.

He said Iraq's apparent attempt to acquire nuclear triggers was "an attempt to take a short cut through the design and development process."

INSIDE WASHINGTON

By Henry Brandon

Kohl committed to Nato membership

CDU victory plus for Bush

WASHINGTON: After the stunning victory of the Alliance for Germany, backed by Chancellor Helmut Kohl, in the East German elections, the Bush administration is much relieved because the chancellor remains firmly committed to membership in Nato. If the Social Democrats had won, as almost everybody expected, Germany's role in Nato might have undergone some changes.

The future relationship between Nato and a unified Germany is what State Department officials consider the most important aspect of American policy in Europe. One of the reasons is that German public opinion, according to the latest polls, would prefer German neutrality, another being that the Soviet Union currently objects to a united Germany remaining in Nato.

American officials are confident that Kohl will want a united Germany to remain a full member of Nato and were reassured when told that at their last Warsaw Pact meeting earlier this month in Prague the Poles, Czechs, Hungarians and Romanians all voted in favour of continued German membership in Nato.

The Russians, on the other hand, said they are against a united Germany remaining in Nato. The trouble with their position is that they are in a dilemma about Germany's future role in Europe. They are not in favour of German neutrality or a kind of free-floating role between the blocs, but they have no clearly formulated alternative.

The Bush administration is ready to accept united Germany's membership in Nato with its East German part demilitarised, but not, for instance, the proposal advanced by Oskar Lafontaine, the leader of the Social Democrats, that Germany like France remain outside the Nato command.

In view of the obvious dilemma on the part of the Soviets, it would seem that Gorbachev has yet to decide on what longer range policy to adopt toward Germany. But with neutrality excluded, with the Warsaw Pact disintegrating and the idea of Germany belonging to both pacts making no sense, hopes are high here that Gorbachev will ultimately agree to Germany being tied to Nato as one of the safest alternatives, one that would ensure that Germany could not throw its weight around or threaten anybody.

Mideast

American officials dealing with Middle Eastern affairs do not expect any early breakthroughs either in the deadlocked internal political situation in Israel or in the peace process, but they are more hopeful of gradual progress.

The fall of Yitzhak Shamir's government was an indication that the United States has not given up on the peace process, for it was American pressure that brought it down in order to bring some movement into a hopeless stalemate. Nobody here had any illusions about the prospects of Peres, the leader of the Labour Party, forming a government. He was and is given only an outside chance. With the two main parties evenly divided, the small religious parties hold the key as to whether Peres could succeed. However, the situation, even if he did succeed, would be so precarious that an early election seems inevitable. The Labour Party under Peres considers itself as the "peace party" because he has publicly committed himself to negotiations with the Palestinians on the basis of the proposal put forth by the US Secretary of State James Baker. He has agreed to meet a Palestinian delegation from the West Bank and Gaza in Cairo. This may well become the issue which will decide the outcome of the next election.

Opinion

It is unclear which alternative Israeli public opinion favours. Peres advocacy for negotiations or Shamir's reluctance to engage in them on the basis of the Baker plan. For that reason it is quite uncertain whether new elections would resolve the current political stalemate in the Israeli Parliament, the Knesset.

There have also been rumours about secret negotiations between Israeli and Syrian representatives somewhere in Europe about the future of the Golan Heights. Neither side has confirmed those rumours, but it may well be that with the Syrians, now unsure of how much support from the Soviet Union they can count on, may be more willing to reach an agreement with Israel. "Nobody should be too expectant of early changes in the situation," an American official said to me, "but changes are occurring, however limited, that could lead to progress."

In the meantime, there is a growing concern among Israelis that the Bush administration is more even-handed in dealing with the Arab-Israeli crisis

than any previous American administration. William Safire, the New York Times columnist, and one of the strongest and most powerful defenders of Israeli interests, in a column this week lobbed the most damaging accusations into the White House garden. He claimed that President Bush, his secretary of state, national security adviser and his chief of staff are "resisting America's special relationship with Israel."

It is true that the administration is threatening to cut financial aid to Israel, that it is forcing Israel's hand to deny Soviet Jews to settle in the West Bank and that this attitude has "emboldened Arab leaders" to threaten countries who help Soviet Jews to reach Israel with terrorism.

The reason that so many Soviet Jews want to get out of their homeland and into Israel is the realisation that a new wave of anti-Semitism seems to be building up among nationalist Russians. Safire therefore concludes with the bitter accusation that the Bush White House would "have to accept responsibility for failing to facilitate the new exodus" before the first pogrom occurs in the Soviet Union.

Safire's accusations are based on facts, but Israeli support in Congress, and in the country generally, has declined. Israel's reluctance to enter into negotiations on the basis of the Baker plan has been a contributing factor. But the Safire volley is bound to be an embarrassment to Bush.

Eastern Europe

Democracy is marching on in Eastern Europe. After elections in Poland, East Germany and Hungary have changed the political landscape in their respective countries, the next in line is Czechoslovakia.

What worries the Havel government is that the best organised party is still the Communist Party whose strength is in the countryside among the peasants. The government is relying on the Civic Forum, the roof organisation that is led by those who staged the revolution against the communists.

Much may depend on when the government is going to introduce the new radical economic reforms which are bound to impose serious hardships on the population. There are those who believe, such as the minister of finance, that they should be introduced as soon as possible, and others, who for political reasons say that they should be postponed until after the elections. However, there is good reason to believe that President Havel's enormous popularity will carry the day in June whatever happens in the meantime.

At the Civil Forum it is estimated that the communists will not obtain more than ten per cent of the vote, but observers in the countryside believe that the percentage could be considerably higher. There are also those who believe that many communists may decide not to vote at all in order not to arouse fears, but come forward at the next national elections, scheduled in two years' time.

On a recent visit to Prague I found that there is a good deal of anxiety about the prospects of the communists in the elections. Havel insisted that the communists be allowed to continue as a party since the new Czechoslovakia is a democracy, and would therefore have the right to participate in the elections set for June 8.

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THE SECOND COMING

Romanians bask
in freedom

BUCHAREST, Romania, (AP): Nearly four months after the Romanian revolution, candles burn at memorials across Bucharest to the hundreds who died. But there is a new buzz in the city from people openly talking politics for the first time in nearly 45 years.

The downfall of communist dictator Nicolae Ceausescu has changed the lives of Romanians in large and small ways. Now there is some heat at night, more food, passports to travel, the right to demonstrate.

Crowds line up, sometimes for hours, to buy newspapers which they now say contain real news for the first time since World War II.

Cinema marquees tout French and American movies. Hundreds of people crowd around a never-before-seen video being shown on a screen in a window on Nicolae Bălcescu Boulevard.

Romanians joke about talking openly to foreigners, a crime under Ceausescu. Thousands have demonstrated for the first time and at every protest, knots of people stand for hours discussing politics. As one diplomat quipped, "Romanians are making up for 45 years of saying nothing."

Apartment
Several thousand people waited in line for up to nine hours to register to buy an apartment at the "Enterprise for Building and Selling Apartments," an opportunity unheard of under Ceausescu.

"I never thought I could own property," said Magda Andromeda, a 30-year-old electronics engineer who was hoping to buy a two-room apartment for 149,000 lei (\$8,000).

But for many like Dr Dan Catana, a 36-year-old paediatrician, the joy at being free is tinged with sadness over the heavy price. As he speaks, his eyes darted from the balcony of the Communist Party Central Committee headquarters, where Ceausescu fled Bucharest, to the candles and flowers on the pavement below burning for those who died in the revolution.

"Ceausescu on this balcony said thousands and thousands of times that communists were people happy," he said, shaking his head. Then he paused, watching an elderly lady light a candle.

"This is our happiness — a very tragic happiness," he said slowly, as the candle's flame danced alongside half a dozen others at the spot where several revolutionaries fell.

"People are free but not completely. We're free, at the middle of the way to democracy. But I'm not worried because I'm very convinced communism cannot come back," he said.

Catana clutched the hand of his 9-year-old daughter and pointed up to the sign on top of the building. It once said "Long live socialism. Romania's but the word 'socialist' had been ripped out."

Changes
The paediatrician said he was taking his daughter to all the sights of the revolution so she could understand the "immense changes" going on in Romania.

"My daughter learned that Nicolae and Elena Ceausescu were the mother and father of the country. Now these people have gone from being the parents of the nation to the killers of the nation," he said. "Our history must be changed since the war."

At the square, Catana showed his daughter the shell-pocked and burned-out buildings, some now surrounded by scaffolding, the art museum, the national library, and a blackened building once used by Ceausescu's hated Securitate secret police who fought against the army and the people even after the dictator's execution.

At the television station, the most heavily contested building during the revolution, about a mile (1.6 kilometres) away, tanks still stand guard.

The surrounding area is studded with burned-out apartment buildings, where Securitate snipers holed up. Only a few showed signs of rebuilding.

Boris Aurel Cosma, a 41-year-old engineer, said the biggest change since the revolution was psychological, the lifting of "the darkness" that communism brought to everyday life.

"We're not thinking immediately of having mountains of products and food," he said. "We're just thinking: we're free."

Kiosks now sell chocolate bars, which disappeared from shops in the last years of Ceausescu's rule, but meat and milk are still luxuries.

Prices
Electricity prices have gone down and there's even hot water for an hour or two a day. But shops and homes are still cold and badly lit, and shoppers must trudge up and down department store escalators that have been turned off.

At Hanul Manuc, originally a caravanserai and now one of Bucharest's most famous establishments, there was no menu in the restaurant — because just one dish was available. Most diners ate with their hats and coats on, to keep warm.

More than a half hour after an order was placed for the main course of fried cheese balls, fried pork and fatty sausage, the waiter came to apologize. "It will be another 10 minutes, but we have a gas shortage and it takes longer to cook," he said.

The revolution has also spawned some less-than-desirable breeds of Western street life. Money changers, beggars, and prostitutes. One of their favourite haunts is the Intercontinental Hotel, where the words "down with communism" are scrawled on a wall in large red letters.

The hotel is across the street from the University of Bucharest, scene of heavy fighting during the revolution. One of the many memorials there, on an island in the middle of the street, lists the names of 117 people from the age of 17 to 58 who died there on Dec 22-23, the vast majority in their 20s.

QUOTE ME
"I'm shocked over what happened, and I sense, I'm upset as well. I'm more in shock, though, about how people let themselves be manipulated." — Buster Douglas after being jeered by members of a Columbus, Ohio audience as slighting local blacks.

"The consequence of reunification is that it is necessary for Germany to respect the frontiers in Europe. Germany must also commit itself in a precise fashion to European political and economic unity. There is no quarrel between them. There are differences of approach, not over numbers, but over its consequences." — French President François Mitterrand.

"He's the only man who has nothing to win and to lose. If he wins, everybody will say, 'he's Jack Nicklaus.' He's supposed to win, 'he's wrong?' — pro golfer Chi Chi Rodriguez on the Senior PGA Tour.

TODAY IN HISTORY

- 1492 — Jews in Spain are given three months to accept Christianity or to leave.
- 1496 — Pope Alexander VI forms Holy League with Holy Roman Empire, Spain, Venice and Milan, ostensibly to fight Turks but aimed at expelling Charles VIII of France from Italy.
- 1683 — Poland forms alliance with Holy Roman Empire against Turks.
- 1854 — US Commodore Perry makes first treaty with Japan, opening two Japanese ports to trade with outside world.
- 1877 — Bartle Frere is named British high commissioner to South Africa with instructions to work toward federation.
- 1889 — Eiffel Tower is opened in Paris.
- 1905 — German Kaiser William II's visit to Tangier sets off first Moroccan crisis.
- 1913 — Turkey accepts recommendations of great powers for peace with Bulgaria.
- 1936 — Britain and France pledged to support Poland if it is invaded.
- 1941 — Germans launch counter-offensive in North Africa in World War II.
- 1942 — Japan's successes in Burma and Andaman Islands threaten India's west coast during World War II.
- 1948 — US Congress passes Marshall aid pact for European recovery.
- 1955 — Chinese Communist Party begins purge.
- 1966 — Prime Minister Hendrik Verwoerd's Nationalist Party wins greatest election victory in South Africa's history.
- 1967 — About 800 leftist guerrillas kill 43 soldiers and US military adviser in attack on major army base in El Salvador.
- 1989 — Turkey's Premier Turgut Ozal overhauls his cabinet, dismissing his brother and cousin and 10 other ministers.

Marine environment

Coral disappearing at alarming rate

By Jon Miller

PALAWAN ISLAND. The Philippines (WNL): "You see those huts?" asks Norman Songco, pointing at a bare spot on the shoreline as the wooden boat chugs out into Puerto Princessa Bay. "They set up a sort of picnic area. The first thing they did was cut down all the mangrove trees. They thought they'd have a beach — what they got was a mud flat."

In itself, the tiny picnic area is not a major problem — 20 metres (65 feet) of blighted coastline and a hurried stretch of coral reef — hut to Songco it illustrates a point. You can't expect to cash in on the environment, he says, unless you are willing to do what it takes to preserve it.

Songco, a 39-year-old former engineer, makes his living guiding tourists to the coral reefs off the coast of this mountainous, sparsely populated island. Since they were "discovered" by divers a few years ago, those reefs have offered some of the most varied and colourful underwater scenery in the world.

But that, like so much here on the Philippines' rugged last frontier, is changing fast.

Palawan's extensive coral reefs, still pristine by the standards of the rest of the Philippines, are in trouble. Rapid growth, poverty, corruption and simple ignorance have conspired against a fragile living environment that takes years to build and seconds to destroy.

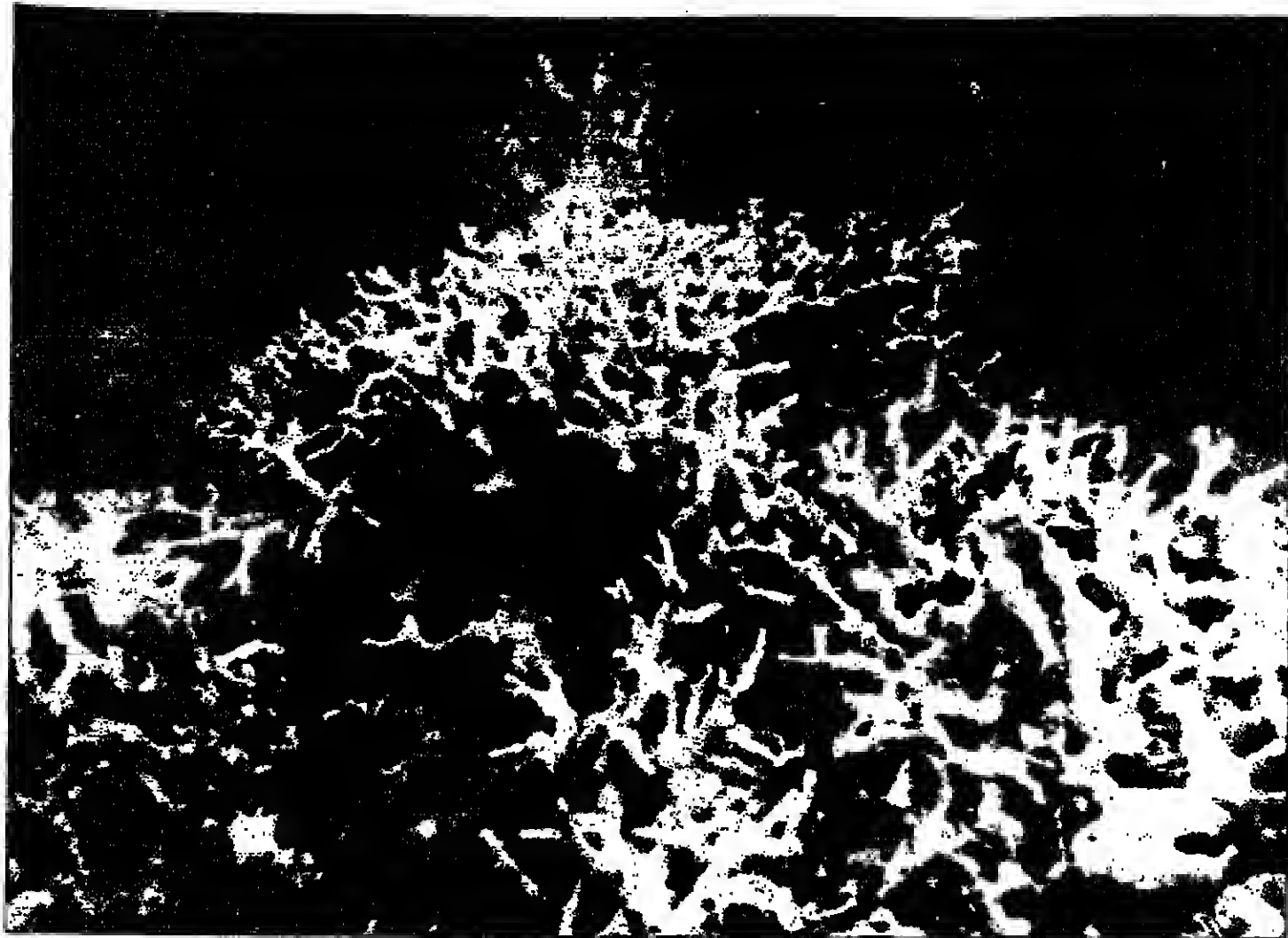
Throughout the Philippines, and throughout the tropical oceans of the world, corals are disappearing at an alarming rate. Commercial fishing with explosives or cyanide — or with a barbaric method called "muro-ami" cause the most dramatic damage. Mine tailing and industrial pollution pose serious problems in many coastal areas as well, and siltation from poorly planned logging and agriculture can have a lasting and devastating effect.

Opponents

So far, scuba divers have been the most vocal opponents of the destruction of the Philippine reefs. Songco, for example, has become active in a local environmental group and has begun to document the damage he sees on his dives. Other divers have banded together to try to persuade the government to designate prime diving spots as marine parks.

But the crisis on the reefs is not just a divers' problem. Delicate reef ecosystems provide food and livelihood for millions of marginal fishermen and their families. Researchers at the University of the Philippines estimate that coral reefs provide as much as 25 per cent of the total catch of fish eaten in this island country. But if trends continue, there is no way that level can be sustained. Scientists say that about 70 per cent of the country's reefs are at best in "poor to fair" condition and that as many as 40 per cent can be considered destroyed.

"The biggest problem is sim-



A healthy coral reef, one of few left in the Philippines to provide top fisheries and a paradise for scuba divers (WNL)

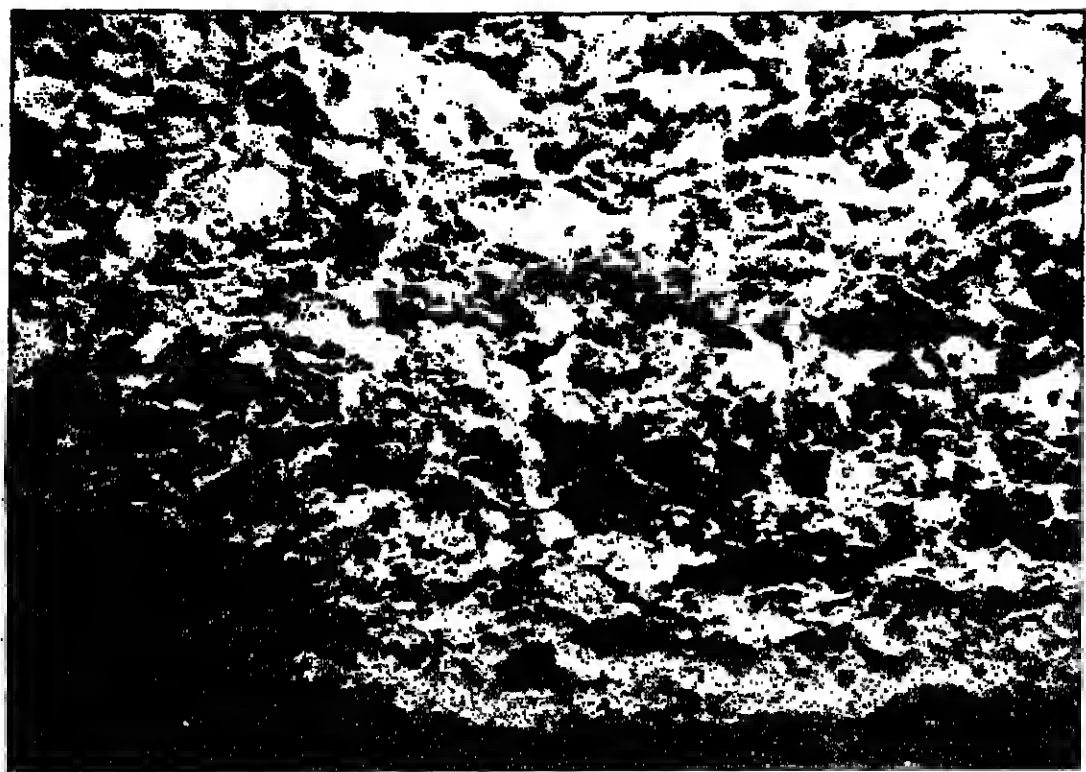
ply population growth," says Bill Stauh, an Asian Development Bank official who has been active in the fight to save Palawan's Tubbataha Reef. Stauh has watched Tubbataha — a remote preserve of 33,500 hectares (about 83,000 acres) with as much biological diversity as Australia's Great Barrier Reef — fall prey to an onslaught of "invaders" from islands whose reefs have already been ravaged.

Advantage

Many of those invaders are poor fishermen looking for better catches, but some of the most threatening are large commercial enterprises. And although a good number are from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan, most are from the Philippines. In recent months a well-financed Filipino seaweed-farming company has taken advantage of the government's lax enforcement efforts and has set up illegal operations on a particularly sensitive section of Tubbataha Reef.

"It's a shame," laments Roland Rodriguez, a Palawan native and director of the island's environmental planning office. Rodriguez points out that migrants from other parts of the country are putting a strain on all of Palawan's resources and marine resources are no exception.

Like many of the slash-and-burn farmers who have ruined the island's upland forests, most of the people fishing in Palawan's waters have come from the overcrowded Visayas islands of the central Philippines. "They



A coral reef devastated by dynamite fishing near Palawan Island. Pollution is also taking its toll, and it is estimated that 40 per cent of the reefs in the Philippines have been destroyed (WNL)

have destroyed the coral reefs in their own places," Rodriguez says, "and now they're coming here." The results have been disastrous. On Tubbataha Reef, 150 kilometres (93 miles) out to sea, fishermen report a catch that is one third of what it was six years ago.

Stauh notes that poor fishermen throughout the country are beginning to recognise the need to preserve their fishing grounds, and in some areas they have begun to organise patrols to monitor destructive and illegal fishing. But although Palawan fishermen claim that it is

mostly outsiders who causes the damage, they admit that it is difficult to resist using environmentally destructive methods or to stand up to others who do so.

"In a lot of communities, people look at dynamite fishing the same way that urbanites look at jaywalking," Stauh explains.

"It's the sort of situation where if you play by the rules you lose, because so many people aren't playing by the rules."

Of all the fishing methods that destroy reefs, "muro-ami" is the most deadly. The technique was brought to the Philippines by Japanese fishermen around World War II and has recently grown more popular. In larger muro-ami operations, hundreds of young men and boys surround a boat, carrying long "scare lines" or ropes with weights attached. The boys swim along with the boat, banging the weights on the ocean floor and driving fish into large nets. It is extremely dangerous for the boys, who are sometimes required to dive without air tanks to depths as great as 30 metres (almost 100 feet), and the weights do tremendous damage to the corals.

Business

But in the Philippines muro-ami is big business, and big business is politics. Despite a temporary ban on the practice, it has been widely reported that at least one influential politician with a financial interest in muro-ami fisheries has subverted law-enforcement efforts.

Even for the casual snorkel-diver, it's not difficult to locate the effects of pollution, siltation, explosives, poisons and muro-ami. Although the surface of the water may be calm, many places on the floor of Puerto Princessa Bay look like minefields. Here and there a stunning clump of coloured coral will rise out of a wasteland of pale, broken coral branches. Where blasting has occurred, it is easy to see where the charge was dropped, and where there has been runoff from nearby hills, suffocated corals are easily seen.

Yet Palawan's reefs are, by all accounts, in better condition than those almost everywhere else in this country of about 7,000 islands.

Dr Porfirio Alino, a marine biologist at the College of Fisheries, reports that he routinely hears blasting during his research dives in the northern Philippines — as many as six explosions per hour. Alino has also studied the effects of mine tailings on corals. Off Cuyo Island, Atlas Mining, a copper-mining company, dumps 110,000 tons of waste material per day which ends up covering corals and destroying the reefs without any hope of recovery.

Songco has been directly affected by the destruction. He moved to Palawan seven years ago, after the diving spots that he had frequented in the northern Philippines had been destroyed by dynamite fishing. They were favourite destinations for international divers.

He knows that fishing is more important to the country than scuba diving, but he, like other environmentalists, thinks that it is possible to live with the sea in a way that makes sense in the long term. "I'm not saying don't touch it," he says, looking out over the turquoise waters of Puerto Princessa Bay. "I'm saying, think about it, care for it, and use it right."

'Dope fiends' get help behind bars

By Gary Rosenberger

WILTON, New York, (UPI). Long before it was a prison, Mt McGregor had a reputation as a place of healing.

Mt McGregor, nestled on a wooded hilltop between the Adirondack Mountains and the Lake Champlain Valley, will soon be the nation's first large-scale treatment facility devoted solely to inmates whose crimes were prompted by an addiction to drugs or alcohol.

There are now 192 inmates in the alcohol and substance abuse treatment programme at Mt McGregor, where barred wire fences wind around log cabins and stylish buildings reflect their role early this century as a tuberculosis sanitarium for Metropolitan Life Insurance Co. employees.

It is a testament to the success of the voluntary programme and to the vision of its founder, prison chaplain Peter Young, that in April it will expand to house 626 inmates.

"My name is Monroe — I'm a dope fiend," said Monroe Parrot to a recent gathering of some 50 inmates.

Parrot was among the first of 37 inmates to take part in Young's programme when it began experimentally in 1981. He has since graduated to become a counsellor, one of its paid staff members.

"I was a shooter," began Parrot, telling his story of heroin addiction to men listening as intently as if the story was their own.

Father Young sat in the back of the room, his priest's collar partially hidden by an old grey sweater.

"In all the other programmes I was in You B-S for two hours telling war stories," said inmate James Hyde, a long-time heroin and cocaine abuser. "But my whole family has turned their backs on me. I got kids, and it hurts."

Young, 59, has been working with alcoholics for 30 years, and for more than a decade with prisoners.

Visitors say the programme works largely because of Young's presence. But the minister credits the inmates who are given major administrative duties in managing the programme, as well as its focus on the Alcoholics Anonymous philosophy of abstinence, self-examination, a dependence on a higher power and group support.

"I came up here to rap on alcohol and drugs. It was not a very in-depth programme. I was it," Young said.

But Young said he was soon approached by James Mitchell, an inmate who told him, "I've been here a long time. It's my seventh bid in the system and I'm tired of this."

Together Young and Mitchell, who died of cancer several months ago, developed a makeshift programme. "I told him I only had one condition. I'm not going to come in and talk to guys who are disrespectful and want to get high," Young said.

What they ultimately worked out was a highly structured six-month programme that has been partially emulated since by other prisons in the state.

Those admitted are generally within two years of eligibility for parole. If they complete their programme, they are sent to a pre-release facility for another six months before returning to society.

To ease that transition, Young has been working to find jobs and low-cost housing for the inmates. Many graduates of the programme have been sent to any of 10 halfway houses set up in the Albany area, some 40 miles (65 km) south of the prison.

Mt McGregor superintendent Joseph Kennedy said while the idea may have seen revolutionary 10 years ago, it was sound.

"It was easy because it was cheap. We were able to go practically with what we had," Kennedy said.

State corrections officials estimate the programme costs an added 250 annually per man but lowers recidivism by about 25 per cent over facilities without such programmes.

Medical news

Gallstones removal made simpler

A NEW method of removing gallstones being pioneered in Scotland means the patient can leave hospital 48 hours after the operation and return to full activity within 10 days. By contrast, conventional surgery can sometimes mean a three month layoff.

Traditionally, gallstones required substantial open abdominal surgery, often involving removal of the gall-bladder itself and a 10-day hospital stay. Even without further delays through infection, patients usually need six to eight weeks convalescence at home before returning to work.

But a new laparoscopic cholecystectomy procedure developed by Professor Alfred Cuschieri, head of surgery at Ninewells Hospital in Dundee, involves much less drastic surgery and is aided by a laparoscopic optical instrument through a small incision in the abdomen.

Four or five small incisions are made rather than one large one. Carbon dioxide gas is introduced to expand the peritoneal cavity to provide working space for the necessary surgical instruments and the surgeon is aided by a visual display until linked to the laparoscope.

Prof. Cuschieri says the smaller incisions mean post-operative pain is reduced and the wounds heal rapidly, minimising problems of infection and scarring. Most patients can begin eating the day after the operation.

The results of the first 200 operations with the new technique are described as "very promising," and it is now being used not only in Dundee but also Paris, Bordeaux and Nashville. Prof. Cuschieri commented: "Laparoscopic cholecystectomy will undoubtedly prove to be a significant advance, reducing drastically the cost of treatment and the time off work needed for convalescence by the patient."

Parisians devour Peter Brook's Mahabharata

An epic tale as told by Europeans

PARIS, (Reuters). The world's longest and oldest poem — an epic 15 times the length of the Bible which evolved in India at least 6,000 years ago — has been brought to the silver screen for the first time.

British theatre director Peter Brook and French writer Jean-Claude Carriere have been working on India's vast and complex national legend, the Mahabharata, for 16 years.

It took them 11 years to craft a nine-hour play and they have just finished five years' work on a technicolour film, now playing in Paris and due to open in the United States next month.

Carriere, 58, has also written a book version of the tale — originally transcribed in Sanskrit — and the two have produced a three-episode mini-series for television, which has already been sold to 37 countries.

"We still haven't finished with the tale, it has a sort of energy which is inexhaustible," Carriere told Reuters in an interview in his Paris home, admitting the Mahabharata had become a full-time obsession.

The story deals with an epic struggle between two rival family clans, the Kauravas, an unruly band of 100, and the Pandavas, five brothers descended from the gods, for control of the universe.

The poem was handed down verbally for thousands of years before the first complete version was penned between 300 and 400 AD. Early scraps of transcript date as far back as 4,000 BC.

Carriere, who worked with Spanish surrealist director Luis Bunuel before beginning his long collaboration with Brook, believes the Mahabharata is particularly relevant to our age because it deals with the threat of total destruction.

The film, with its murky atmosphere and magical settings, was filmed in 14 weeks in a studio on the outskirts of Paris on a six-million-dollar budget.

"Hollywood offered to make a mega-production in India, complete with elephants and exotic palaces, but Brook felt that would be a betrayal of his work," said producer Michel Propper.

Under Brook's direction, a group of 28 actors and a few extras have created an illusion of thousands in the dimly-lit battle scene which is the climax of the three-hour film.

"Brook is known as the master of illusion, what he has created here is neither a film nor a piece of theatre, it is on a bridge between the two, something very unique," said Propper.

Most of the cast, members of which included actors from China, India, Italy

and France, were also in the play, and many were chosen from Brook's theatre company, which he set up after moving to Paris from Britain in the late 1960s.

Propper estimates the film has already attracted up to 200,000 people since it opened in Paris at the end of January. But he says the real challenge was showing a Western adaptation of the legend in India.

The story, which also incorporates the famous Bhagavad-Gita legend, provides India with its gods, including Krishna, Shiva and Vishnu, as well as much of its mythology, children's tales and, these days, almost endless fodder for comic strips and television films.

"I was much more scared for the Indian opening than any other," confessed Propper, who co-ordinated a preview of the film in four Indian cities at the end of last year.

SOUTH MOLTON, England, (Reuters). As soon as Mike Williams saw the mutilated, bloodless carcass of one of his sheep he knew it had been killed by something extraordinary.

The throat had been torn apart, the left ear was missing and it looked like it had been thrown around like a rag doll. Most of the blood had been sucked from the body.

"The face and neck were stripped off," said Williams. "I showed it to my father and neither of us had seen anything killed that way. You've got to see it to believe it."

The killing was so quick the animal didn't struggle and so quiet nearby sheep were undisturbed.

This was just one of hundreds of sheep killed in exactly the same way since 1983 on the edge of Exmoor, a rugged, desolate area 200 miles (320 km) west of London which is dotted with isolated villages and solitary farms.

The first rash of killings prompted a near-panic. Hunters, super-sleuths and even the British marines combed the 260-square-mile (670-square-km) moor in search of what has become known as "the beast of Exmoor."

Mystery surrounds 'Exmoor' beast

"Nobody knew what we were up against," said Nigel Brierly, a retired local resident who recently wrote a book *They Stalk by Night* about the beast.

"One chap had a butterfly net and another chap who was good at catching stray dogs came up from Plymouth... He trailed a large piece of meat around the moor," Brierly added.

But their efforts were useless and the killings have continued, about 50 a year by Brierly's estimate.

First suspicions, taking their cue from Arthur Conan Doyle's *The Hound of the Baskervilles*, focused on an oversized dog. But padmarks near the bodies, the beast's ability to leap from extreme heights and its creaking cry led Brierly and others to suspect it was a puma or mountain lion.

"I heard it twice," said Williams, who has been farming in the area since the late 1950s. "It sounds like a woman screaming. It makes your

hair stand up."

The high-pitched cry has become a familiar sound to many local residents, and several say they have seen the elusive beast.

Rod Bramer claims to have spotted the creature near his house early one morning. In one bounding leap it jumped from a wood on to the road and then to the opposite side.

"It was half and again as big as an Alsatian. Long and low, and what struck me was the thickness of the bone in its leg. It was hefty and had a dusky fawn colour," said Bramer who runs a local shooting school.

"I've lived in the country all my life. I'm not a pseudo country person and I know what animals look like. This was, as far as I'm concerned, a mountain lion or puma."

Brierly also claims to have seen the creature and much of his book is devoted to theory that the "beast of Exmoor" is one or several pumas.

"I have every reason to believe they are pumas," he said.

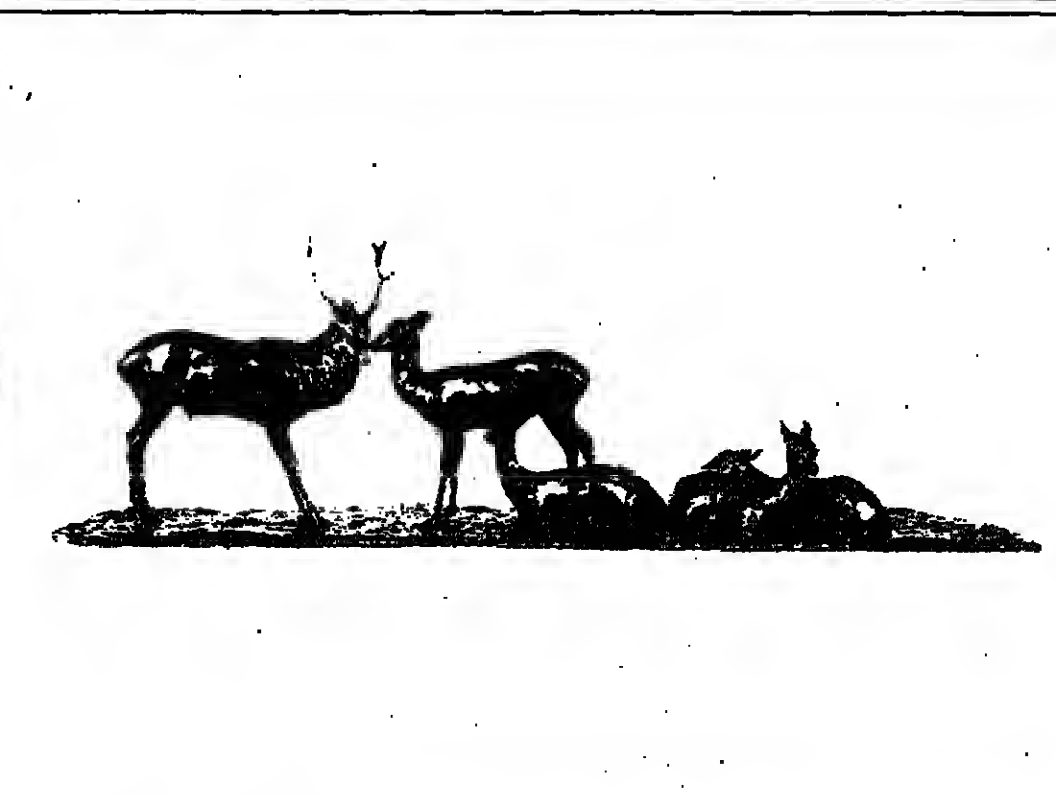
Although they are not indigenous to Britain, Brierly believes pumas, whose natural habitat stretches from Northwestern Canada to South America, could have been released from private menageries several years ago and have been breeding in the British countryside ever since.

But Doug Richardson, head keeper and cat specialist at the London Zoo, is sceptical. "It's possible but I've yet to see any hard evidence that it is a puma," he said.

He dismissed the numerous sightings saying most people, unless their eyes are trained, cannot identify well-known, big-cat species.

"They can never get it right," he said, adding that he has seen people in a zoo misidentifying big cats that were labelled. Pumas do have a high-pitched cry "but so do domestic cats, and foxes also make bizarre noises," he added.

But for Richardson the lack of blood was the most convincing argument against the puma theory because sucking blood is not one of its behavioural traits.



Bugatti sculptures

THIRTY-NINE magnificent sculptures by Rembrandt Bugatti from the collection of Monsieur Alain Delon, the renowned film actor, are to be sold by Sotheby's in London on April 4, 1990. The thirty-nine works form the finest collection in private hands by this major animalier sculptor and are undoubtedly the most important group ever to appear at auction.

Alain Delon has been a passionate collector of Rembrandt Bugatti's work for the past twenty years. Although he has not stopped buying Bugatti bronzes, he feels that this particular group fully represents Bugatti's work which could not be enhanced by the addition of further works. Its completeness is demonstrated by the subject matter and the size of the bronzes ranging from composite pieces measuring over 1.3 metres to a tiny bird-only 16cm high. For this reason he has decided to sell this part of his collection.

Rembrandt Bugatti (1884-1916) was the younger son of Carlo Bugatti, the creator of remarkable furniture, and brother of Ettore of motorcar fame. Born in Milan in 1884, he achieved recognition and acclaim at an early age and although his life was short, ending tragically at 30, he made a deep impression on the art world during his brief working life between 1901 and 1916. Rembrandt Bugatti was a great lover of animals and felt a natural affinity with them. His sculptures are immediately recognisable and distinguishable from any other work. Often described as an unassuming genius, Rembrandt was drawn at an early age into the Faune environment and "gravitated to a world where the spontaneity of the natural beast counted for all. He devoted himself to capturing a world of movement and stance that artificial human values were not allowed to encounter. His work invariably spoke for the animal standing by itself." Like Hokusai, he would spend hours, even days, observing his subject and then work swiftly, accurately and forcefully, destroying anything which did not succeed at the first attempt.

EVENTS



PAC Veterans hold successful Musical Nite

The PAC Veterans recently held their Musical Nite at the Sharq Auditorium hall. The pictures show (left) Veena thrilling the packed-hall audience with her beautiful dancing event. (Top) Pakistan's national costumes display was a prime presentation of the PAC Veterans' programme. Shown from left: Nadia Ghazali (Baluchi), Mishal (Punjabi), Nabila Osman (Kashmiri), Rubina Sharfuddin (Sindhi) and Zubla Aqil (Pathan).

WHAT'S ON

ARTS

Sultan Gallery
INDIAN artist Shamima Farid is showing a collection of her latest works at the Sultan Gallery, near Rolls Royce showroom. A wide selection of subjects are featured in the paintings of the artist, who has exhibited widely in Kuwait and overseas. However, this is Shamima's first solo exhibition in Kuwait. Open daily from 9 am to 1 pm and 4 to 8 pm.

Bits 'n' Pieces
An interesting 8 week course in patchwork and quilting techniques. For details contact Tel. 563-4665.

SOCIAL

Summer Affair '90
The Weekend Club will host their traditional "Summer Affair" on the first day of Eid Al Fitr (April 26) at the Regency Palace Hotel. Watch or participate in the selection and crowning of the 1990 Summer Queen, join in a Jive Contest, watch a scintillating display of "Lambada" or simply let your feet loose to the music of Top Ranks and Perfect Strangers. Gala buffet, loads of prizes and most important have a good time. For reservations call 431 5425 (July), 5741380 or 4890566.

Holy Week 1990
Holy Family Cathedral - Kuwait
Palm and Passion Sunday: 8th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English): 3.25 pm. Holy Mass (Korean): 4.30 pm. Holy Mass (Korean): 5.45 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.55 pm. Holy Mass (English).
Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday of the Holy Week: 9th, 10th, 11th April - 7.15 am. Holy Mass (English). 6.00 pm to 8.30 pm. Confession: 6.30 pm. Holy Mass (English): 7.00 pm. Holy Mass & Retreat (Malayalam - in high hall).

Maundy Thursday: 12th April - 7.00 am. Celebrated Mass of Christ (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Korean); 5.30 pm. Solemn Holy Mass of the Lord's Supper (English - in the high hall).
Good Friday: 13th April (Day of fast and abstinence). 7.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Malayalam); 9.00 am. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 2.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (Korean); 4.00 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English); 5.30 pm. Celebration of the Lord's Passion (English).
Holy Saturday: 14th April - 4.00 pm to 6.00 pm. Confessions: 8.00 pm. Easter Vigil Mass (English).
Easter Sunday: 15th April - 7.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 9.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 10.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.00 am. Holy Mass (English); 11.30 am. Holy Mass (French in high hall); 12.00 noon Holy Mass (English); 4.00 pm. Holy Mass (Korean); 5.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 6.00 pm. Holy Mass (English); 7.00 pm. Holy Mass (Malayalam in high hall).

British Council
The British Council working hours during the Holy month of Ramadhan: General office - Saturday to Wednesday - 7.30 to 14.00; Library - Saturday to Wednesday - 9.00 to 12.30, 16.00 to 19.00; Thursday: 9.00 to 1.20.

PAC's Silver Jubilee
The organising committee of the Pakistan Arts Circle will celebrate PAC's Silver Jubilee on Thursday, the 27th April, 1990 at 9 pm. The programme will include variety of programme and "Sham-e-Ghazal". Our earlier artist will present his wonderful performance, and is being invited from Pakistan.
Reservations are open to all families. All are kindly requested to book their seats well before 15th April, 1990. For more information contact 4716258.

Guardian Angel Club
The Guardian Angel Club take great pleasure in announcing their Konkani drama entitled "Ostorocho Mog" (Woman's Love) directed by Rennie J. Colaco, on June 8, 1990, at the IAC, Goan Charlie Chaplin - Jancito Vaz, Ophelia, H. Britton and Sebby Coutinho are among the other well known Goan cast.

Konkani non-stop show
A Konkani non-stop show entitled Kosti Ani Sontos (Hardships & Happiness), written and directed by Epa de Lourdes, organised by Utorla Lourdes Boys will be staged on July 6, 1990 at 3.30 pm. Venue: Labour Union Hall, Maidan Hawaii.
For more information contact 4817857.

Narmada's Malayalam play
NARMADA Theatres will be staging a social Malayalam play, A Love Mantra From Ujjain, at Indian Arts Circle auditorium, Funaites on Friday, May 11, 1990 at 6.30 pm. Written by Varghese Paul, lyrics by Rajendra Babu, music by Antony Joseph, the play is co-directed by Sherry John and directed by Jayan Pattathu. Various characters are being represented by popular stage artists among the Malayalee community in Kuwait.
Hyderabad
The Committee for Celebrations of 400-year Anniversary of Hyderabad (DECEN) invites essays in either Urdu, Telugu or English languages in not less than 1000 words on one of the following topics: 1. Quli Qutub Shah - the Architect of Hyderabad; 2. Contribution of Nawab Mir Osman Ali Khan towards modern Hyderabad; 3. Hyderabad City as I saw her (for school students only).
The competition is open to all present and former Hyderabadis and their children residing in Kuwait.
A panel of judges will judge the first, second and third prize winning entries, and the prizes and citations will be distributed before the audience at 400-year anniversary celebrations to be held sometime in May 1990.
All entries must be neatly written or typed on A4 size paper in double space, and reach the committee on or before April 30, 1990 and addressed to the Convenor Literary Committee, PO Box 23343, Safat, 13094, Kuwait. No entry fee is charged.

Ladies International League
LIL's Summer Bazaar is now being held at the Kuwait Regency Palace Hotel in the exhibition hall on Friday, May 11 from 10 am to 6 pm. Vendors' first meeting at Regency palace in Nahla Room from 5 pm to 7 pm on March 26. All inquiries contact Celina on 3434946 or Barbara on 5325131.

Rose Ferns' drama
MAY 10-11: Expatriates Club proudly announces that Goa's celebrated king of century shows Rose Ferns, and his sixteen member troupe, will present at the Granada Cinema hall, Kheitan, his premier release in Kuwait "Xinxé" (Broken Glass) and "Beiman Tum" (You Ungrateful) which has already crossed the hundred plus mark in Goa. More details later.

Kuwait Little Theatre
Kuwait Little Theatre will present a St. George's Night show on Wednesday 18th April. Stage crew, wood butchers and set painters are required now. Set construction begins on Saturday 31st March at 6.30 pm in the theatre. Call the stage manager on 3725407 for details.

Ladies International League
LIL'S BIG MEETING: Monday, April 2, 1990 from 7 pm to 10 pm - Sheraton Hotel Ballroom A. This month's programme shall be health, exercise and jazzercise. Audience participation welcomed but not required. Please join us for fun, refreshment, entertainment and socialising. Doors open at 7 pm, refreshments at 7.30 and programme starts at 8 pm sharp. Doors shall close at 7.45 pm sharp.

Swedish Ladies Meeting
The Swedish ladies will hold a coffee afternoon on April 3, Tuesday. For further details call 5317473.

HOTELS

SAS Hotel
AL GHAEZER: Sails again and offers you a unique experience of the old seafaring Kuwaiti tradition. We prepared special menus you can enjoy onboard. Available for half day or full day trip, for reservation, pls call 5657000 ext. 416.

AL BOOM: The only floating restaurant in town. Magnificent array of mezze - delicious Hor's d'oeuvres together with wide range of international appetizers and salads. Choose your main course from succulent varieties of charcoal grilled delicacies - prime American beef, Gulf lobster hamour or zubeidi. Enjoy your della at the diwani overlooking the sea. For reservation, pls call 5657000 ext. 403 or 540.

PEACOCK ROOM: Our Chinese chef recommends fried prawns with turnips and chilli sauce, crispy fried smoked beef and wide varieties of delectable Chinese specialties from our chef's recommendation or take your pick from our delightful menu of sumptuous Chinese favourites.

Book for a nice table in cozy elegance of our Peacock Room. Pls. call 5657000 ext. 403 or 532.

CLOCK: Drive-in restaurant offers varieties of mouth-watering fast food items - juicy burgers, hot French fries, crispy drumsticks, and lot more plus soft drinks and juices.

Indian Cuisine Centre
Indian art of fancied lac bangles and designful benna work comes live at the finest Indian cuisine centre of Kuwait at the Maharaja Palace Restaurant. Come savour the delicacies whilst giving your lady a gift to cherish. For more information contact 2406150.

Sheraton Hotel
HUNT ROOM: Opens for Iftar with a buffet of exquisite delicacies. RICARDO: Will be opened for dinner with live entertainment by the new duo - Franco & Regina. COFFEE SHOP: Will serve an Iftar buffet and regular dinner with special menu items such as grilled items, maza, etc. Enjoy Suhour from 12 pm to 3 am. LOBBY: Lady pianist Malgorzata Wejsis plays in the lobby diwaniya after Iftar until the end of Ramadan.

Messiah Beach Hotel
Messiah Beach Hotel is promoting an evening of seafood specialties every Wednesday evening at 7 pm in Al Mubarakiah Restaurant.

Holiday Inn
Ramadan Activities: COFFEE SHOP: Lavish buffet of traditional Arabic cuisine for only KD6.000 including beverages. First two kids free, per family, the rest half price. SUHOUR: Eat as much as you can for KD2.000. LOBBY CAFE: All kinds of freshly squeezed juices plus mouth-watering pastries. BABYLON GARDENS: Order for 2 and pay for 1. From 7 to 9 pm nightly. Enjoy a variety of Arabic and Continental sweets and associated fresh fruit juices.

The Meridian
DURING the holy month of Ramadan
LA BRASSERIE: Meridian invites you to join us for a delicious Iftar buffet being served during the holy month of Ramadan. Indulge in a sumptuous choice of traditional dishes, including a variety of mezzah, majbous, safina, baal-haki, harissa and mansaf saoudi. Complete your meal with a mouth-watering array of desserts like hasshouseh, maamoul bel tamer and katayef.

La Brasserie will also feature a lavish buffet including desserts and delicious beverages from sunset until midnight. A La Carte items are available until 2.00 am.
AL FINGAN: Open from sunset until 2.00 am. A tantalising selection of delicious cocktails, plus tempting cakes and traditional pastries. Live oriental duo and Argilla (Hubble-Bubble) provided to help you savour and relax in style and comfort.
AL WAHA: Open from sunset until midnight. Al Waha will offer their regular menu, plus special refreshments as irge sous, tamer hindy, laban eiran, karakady and kamer el din. Plus, as is traditional, all drinks will be served with a dish of succulent dates.

OUTSIDE CATERING: For those of you who would prefer to break fast at home, we can cater a similar delicious Iftar Buffet and deliver right to your door for the ultimate dining convenience and comfort. As is traditional during the month of Ramadan, ghaghah will also be available at the time of your choice, arranged exclusively for you and your guests. Just call the banquet department on 245-5550, ext. 967/929 to place your order.

SPORTS
Daniella Bowling
ALL Danes are invited to participate in the first ever Daniella Bowling Tournament on April 5, 1990, at 6 pm. For further information and registration please call Connie - Tel: 3715637 or Marianne - Tel: 3720137 before March 26.

Apollo Fitness Centre
ON-GOING CLASSES: Apollo Stretch - Sun and Wed - 10.30 - 11.30 am; Apollo Workout - Sunday - 5.30 - 6.30 pm, Tuesday - 5.00 - 6.00 pm; Fast 'n' Fizzical (mixed) - Friday - 1.00 to 2.00 pm; Monday Madness - 4.00-5.00 pm; Tuesday treat (mixed) - 6.00 to 7.00 pm; Saturday sweatshop - 4.00 to 5.00 pm; Martial arts - Mon, Wed, Fri; Taekwondo - Sat, Mon, Wed; Hatha Yoga - enroll now for April. Call in now for further details. Tel. 4742000 ext. 6700.

Dinghy Laser Sailing
M.B.L.C. announces its Ramadan "Madhatter" racing series commencing Friday 30.3.90 and running every Tuesday and Friday until 17.4.90. Briefing times, Fridays 10.00 am. Tuesday 15.00. All members are requested to attend the pre-race meeting on Friday, 30.3.90 at 0930. Limited number of club boats available. For further details please contact: David Clark (W) 4845171 (H) 2451791, Roger Brown (W) 4736167, (H) 5325139.

India Festival Tournaments
Indian Arts Circle in its press release, announced that an all Indian Open badminton and volleyball, tournaments will be conducted in connection with the India Festival.

All Indian teams/individuals are invited to register themselves for early fixtures to avoid disappointment.

Both the tournaments will commence on 9.4.1990 at 7.30 pm. Last date for entry will be 5.4.1990 before 10.00 pm. Fixtures will be displayed at I.A.C. on 7.4.1990 at 8.00 pm. Participation is only against India Festival Master coupons for each event/individual. For further details please contact: LAC office or India Festival Office Tel: 3904817 (5 pm-11 pm), 2456293 (5.30 pm-11 pm)

Yoga lessons
FOR FITNESS and slimming, Kuwait International Hotel offers Yoga lessons for ladies and men, every Sunday and Tuesday at 8.00 to 9.00 pm and on Friday from 10.30 to 11.30 am. For more information contact Antonio Kingma on 2533000 or Tanya on 5626529.

Kuwait International Hotel
FIT FOR LIFE: Qualified Austrian masseur specialising in foot reflexology, acupressure, athletic and relaxation massage available everyday. Tennis clinics on-going for all levels of play including Junior, Ladies' and Adult sessions with Frank Novak - an experienced Canadian coach and tennis professional. Classes total 4 weeks in length and meet twice each week. Private coaching also available and fun tennis sessions for the family. Ladies' Keep Fit Classes on Sundays, Tuesdays and Thursdays. Ladies' Sauna now offers a 50 per cent discount on the usual entrance fee. Ladies' Day on Saturdays and Tuesdays from 9.00 am to 9.00 pm. For details please call: 2533000/8050 (Recreation).

● All entries for the What's On Column can be sent by telefax (22332) to Events Section or hand delivered daily, except Thursdays, from 12 noon to 4 pm, at the Arab Times Office in Shuwaikh. Photographs will also be considered for publication. Phoned-in entries will not be accepted.

TELEVISION PROGRAMMES

KTV 1

- 1.00 Opening, Holy Quran and programme
- 1.35 Cultural programme: World's Animals
- 2.00 Cartoon serial
- 2.25 Historical serial: Maal Sabreen
- 3.35 Cultural programme: Human Health
- 4.00 Arabic daily serial: Qabadai Bahloul
- 4.30 Educational programme
- 4.45 Arabic daily serial: Raafat Al-Hajjan
- 5.31 Religious programme
- 6.15 Cartoon serial
- 6.45 Religious programme: Baadal Ifar
- 7.00 Local children's serial

- 8.00 Religious programme: Nourul Islam
- 8.45 Cultural programme: Juhaina
- 9.45 Local programme: Sawalef Minal Madi
- 10.45 Local serial
- 11.30 Local variety programme: 3x3
- 12.15 Arabic serial: Sharia Al-Mawardi
- 1.15 Arabic drama: Ghus-nil Ban

KTV 2

- 8.00 Opening announcement & Holy Quran
- 8.05 Brave Star: Cartoon serial
- 8.30 Survival: Informative programme. Desert life all around the world

- 9.00 News in English
- 9.30 Welcome Ramadan
- 9.45 Face to Face: Local programme featuring exclusive interviews with famous personalities within Kuwait
- 10.30 Final Run: A bank clerk manages to obtain top secret information about the IRA. He informs the police who in turn protect him. However his son does not approve of this behaviour
- 11.00 Mutual of Omaha: An informative programme about scientists who are searching for strange animals around the world
- 11.30 Feature film
- 1.00 News in brief
- 1.15 Magazine D'Actualite

BBC world service highlights

Turning points

MICHAEL BENTINE with his zany sense of humour and infectious laugh ranks as one of Britain's best-loved and well-known comedians. In this, the first in a series of four programmes, he talks to Bel Mooney about the turning points in his life. Later this month listeners can hear film producer David Puttman, Irish poet Seamus Heaney and journalist Charles Glass talking about significant moments in their lives.

Wednesday, April 4 at 12:45 and 22:45

The speakers are Sir Crispin Tickell, the UK's ambassador to the United Nations, and Marius Ethoven of the Netherlands, director-general for Environmental Protection.

Sunday, April 1 at 17:01

Monologues by Stephen Dunstone

"FORGIVENESS" is the title and the theme of the second monologue performed by Tony Hayward.

Sunday, April 1, at 15:01 and 22:01

Concert Hall

LISTENERS can hear a salute to Broadway in the first of this month's Concert Hall which features the music of Gershwin, Kern, Rodgers, Bernstein and Sondheim.

Sunday, April 1, at 18:15

Recommended frequencies: 17.64 MHz/17.01m; 15.07 MHz/19.91m; 11.76 MHz/25.51m

The 'green debates'

THE global response is the topic under discussion in the last of the four 'green debates.' The debate is based on the motion: "The best way to preserve the Earth is through a World Environment Agency."



ASK holds Holy Quran competition

The American School - Primary section, held a Holy Quran recital competition for the 1989/90 season. Principal of the school, Maxine Al Refai and technical supervisors of the Ministry of Education and Islamic Education, teachers in the school, attended the competition. Winners were presented with valuable gifts.

'Kala' honours cultural figures

THE Kerala Art Lovers Association, "Kala", held a commemorative meeting in giving tribute to the late Prof. Thyayitu Sankaran, a prominent and progressive Kerala literary and cultural figure during the occasion of his fifth death anniversary last Friday.

The meeting was presided over by V.B. Jamal, the president of "Kala" and it began with a welcome speech made by Sam Pynumood, the literary secretary.

Vakkom Sharma, Renuka Bhaskaran, Pushpa Narayanan and P.M. Sudhakaran made speeches by reviewing the literary and cultural creations of the well known critic and writer Prof. Thyayitu.

A recitation of poetry was done by N.V.K. Warrier. Dr. Nanthakumar Moorkath, Varkey Mathew Eraviperor, Sainu Pallithazhathu, L. Chandran Pillai, Badel Malabary and Mohan Vadanappally.

The highlight of the programme which made the

audience spell-bound was a Kathaprasanga (story discourse) by Kumarij Perikulam. To enliven the evening J. Radhakrishnan, George Isaac, and K. Muhammed help much by singing their favourite songs which received a great applause from the audience. The Kathaprasanga was conducted in connection with the 13th death anniversary of A.K. Gopalan.

An orchestra team viz K. Narayanan - violin, Simon V. Kothamangalam - organ, Kamalasan - tabla, Lorence and K. Muhammed - effects controlled the music.

Kala has by far established itself as a pillar of the realm of artistic and cultural activities in Kuwait. Now to crown all of its past achievements Kala has earned another feather to the fair cap.

Rajan Kilimanoor, the art secretary addressed the art lovers and T.K. Narayanan, the general secretary paid a vote of thanks.

CONGRATULATIONS



RUHI SIDDIQUI, of the International School of Pakistan (Senior II), outshone her classmates by scoring 85.9 per cent marks in the annual examination held by the school. Her performance is compatible to her name which means "Spirit". Congratulations Ruhi, keep up the good work.

NIGHT CHEMIST

Kuwait City
Al Alamiya Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem St.
Hawalli and Al Nuqra
Al Hana Pharmacy
Fahed Al Salem St.
Salmoiya and Rumeithiya
Al Quds Pharmacy
Amman St.

Fahad and Ahmadi
Al Badya Pharmacy
Al Dabbous St.
Jleeb Al-Shuyukh
Wahran Pharmacy
Souk St.
Al Jahra
Al Abraj Pharmacy
Dabal Al-Khozae St.

PRAYERS

Al Andalus
Street Justice
Al Salamiya
Malone
Al Hamra
Arabic film
Drive-In
Arabic film
Al Firdous
Aakhr Baazi
Fahad Open
Sachai Ki Taqat
Fahad
Peruvannapurath Vishangal
Al Jahra
Radioactive Dreams
Granada
Beverly Hills Body Snatchers
Salaabkhat
Arab Film
Al Jleeb
Naadurazanikal
Ahmadi Drive-In
Ninja Destroyers

PRAYERS

Fajr 4.15pm
Zuhr 11.52
Asr 3.23pm
Maghreb 6.06
Isha 7.23

BUSINESS & FINANCE

Subroto predicts higher US oil imports

Opec lost over \$200b

ABU DHABI, March 30. (Agencies) An oil research official was quoted yesterday as saying that Opec states lost more than \$200 billion in revenue through their price war in the mid-1980s.

Quoted in a United Arab Emirates oil journal, Nicolas Sarkis, head of studies at the Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) could have avoided the oil price collapse if they had not started undercutting each other.

"The loss was a sort of enforced present from Opec to the consumer countries," he was quoted as saying in the latest issue of petroleum and industry.

In 1986, world oil prices fell to below \$10 from \$28 per barrel. Sarkis blamed the situation directly on the policies of the then oil ministers of the oil producing nations, in the 13-member Opec group.

Meanwhile, the leader of Opec predicted that the United States, which now imports half its oil, will buy at least two-thirds of its oil abroad by the end of the decade.

Opec General Secretary Subroto said the United States should not be afraid of its growing reliance on imported oil from its biggest supplier, the Opec.

Unless a major new oil field is discovered in Alaska, Subroto said the outlook for the future is that

Opec will supply more oil to the United States, as well as to the rest of the world, to meet growing demands and make up for non-Opec production declines.

Subroto also called for double-hulled tankers to better ensure safe oil shipments and said industrialised nations and developing countries alike must start paying closer attention to environmental concerns.

The Indonesian leader of the 13-nation oil organisation in the first visit by an Opec chief to America's biggest oil-producing state, spoke to the pro-development civic group in Commonwealth North before heading for the oil port of Valdez to see the lessons of the disastrous Exxon Valdez oil spill and four pipeline facilities.

Subroto, who goes by the single name, was to tour Prudhoe Bay, the United States' largest oil field, yesterday during a five-day trip to Alaska.

Subroto said Opec's role as an oil supplier is growing, and that oil prices will rise with demand, but he said that should be no cause for alarm among consumer nations.

He predicted that US total oil reserves will become of marginal importance in about nine years' time, partly because the Exxon Valdez spill increased opposition to drilling in the Arctic national wildlife refuge, which may hold vast reserves of oil in northeast Alaska.

Subroto said, "The United States is

importing about half its oil requirement, and this level could rise to between 65 and 70 per cent by the year 2000."

He said production declines in non-Opec countries such as the United States and the Soviet Union, combined with increasing demand, "means that there will be a gradual transition from non-Opec to Opec dominance of the market."

However, this does not mean that consumers have anything to fear. Indeed, the fact that Opec has the easily-accessible reserves to meet future demand should relieve rather than intensify consumers' fears about energy supply and the impact on the environment.

He said Opec has 84 per cent of the known reserves in the non-communist world, 908 billion barrels.

"It should not matter whether the United States, or any other country, has to import a growing quantity of oil from Opec," Subroto said. "That is what we are here for. Opec countries import most of the things they need and pay for their imports with oil revenues, so the petrodollars are coming back to the consumers, mainly Western countries."

Opec's 25-million barrel production is near capacity and Opec will have to undertake a \$60 billion spending programme to meet future demands, Subroto said.

He said a "rather fragile equilibrium" exists between supply

and demand, and "prices will go up slowly reflecting at least the inflation rate. If you talk about prices in real terms, I think it will be about \$23, 24 per barrel in 1995" for cheaper Opec oil.

"Nobody wants to repeat the history of the '80s and see the fluctuation go up to \$40 and go down again to \$9 (per barrel). It's very disruptive for the producers as well as for the consumers," he said.

Subroto said uncertainties that could affect the fragile supply-and-demand balance include the emergence of new economies in Eastern Europe with a bigger appetite for oil, what percentage of oil the Soviet Union — now the world's biggest oil producer — will be able to supply, the impact of US production declines, the speed of industrialisation in southeast Asia, the emergence of new consumer nations as Third World oil producers, and environmental concerns.

"We in Opec share everybody else's concern about the deteriorating quality of the environment," Subroto said, noting that environmental degradation is worsening in developing countries.

Subroto said refineries, which have suffered "an unprecedented series of mishaps" in the last 18 months, should be modernised and he called for an overhaul of the world tanker fleet to safer double-hulled vessels.

UK to be major oil producer

LONDON, March 30. (IOPC) Britain will continue to be a major oil producer well into the next century, Minister of State for Energy, Peter Morrison told delegates at a conference in Scotland.

He maintained that widespread production that the UK's North Sea oil production would go into "terminal decline" in the mid-1990s were "too pessimistic."

The minister said he was basing his opinion on the amount of investment planned for the North Sea, coupled with the number of oil discoveries that had been made recently.

Morrison, who was addressing a three-day conference on offshore operations at Aberdeen, disclosed that he would soon announce new initiatives to spur exploration activity in the frontier areas.

Meanwhile, London stockbroker James Capel has forecast in its annual petroleum review that oil production in northwest Europe was expected to peak in 1993 before falling sharply towards the end of the century.

Quoted by the specialist publication "Lloyd's List", the report says that an oil output peak of 4.5 million bpd could be expected in 1995.

New budget

Qatar boosts spending

DOHA, March 30. (AP) The government yesterday unveiled its budget for fiscal 1990-91, with a 33.4 per cent projected increase in revenue reflecting improving world oil prices.

Revenue in the budget starting April 1 through March 31, 1991, was estimated at 7.785 billion riyals (\$2.1 billion) compared to last year's figure of 5.834 billion riyals (\$1.6 billion).

Expenditure was estimated at 11.706 billion riyals (\$3.2 billion), an increase of 1.97 per cent over last year, when spending totalled 11.482 billion riyals (\$3.145 billion).

Like other members of the 13-nation Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries, Qatar is still burdened with a budget deficit, but has narrowed it.

A statement by the Minister of Finance and Petroleum, Sheikh Abdul Aziz Bin Khalifa Al Thani, pegged the Qatari deficit at 3.923 billion riyals (\$1.07 billion), compared to 5.648 billion riyals (\$1.5 billion) last year.

But he said the deficit would reach 4.868 billion riyals (\$1.3 billion) expenditures outside the budget were added.

Thani said some 845 million riyals (\$231 million) had been earmarked outside the budget for developing the offshore North Field gas project.

It did not say where the money will come from. Nor did he specify why the extra-budgetary allocation was necessary give any further details.

Talks set to resolve trade blockage of Nepal

NEW DELHI, March 30. (UPI) A delegation of senior Indian officials will meet their Nepalese counterparts in Kathmandu for a final round of talks aimed at ending a trade and transit blockade of the tiny, landlocked Himalayan kingdom of Nepal, a foreign ministry official said yesterday.

Foreign Secretary S.K. Singh, Commerce Secretary S.P. Shukla and several other officials will reach Kathmandu tomorrow to spend three days working with Nepalese officials on documents designed to end the year-old dispute, the Indian official said.

Foreign ministers of the two nations were expected to sign the documents later in April during a visit to Kathmandu by Indian Foreign Minister Inder Kumar Gujral.

"Work would begin on a comprehensive solution of all outstanding issues," said the spokesman, adding that the documents would cover a broad framework to govern relations between India and Nepal.

The reference to documents apparently meant that India has dropped its demand for a single treaty governing Nepal's trade with India as well as transit facilities to landlocked Nepal. Kathmandu has been demanding separate treaties.

The spokesman refused to say if India has dropped its demand for a single treaty, saying only that there will be compromises from both sides to strengthen bilateral relations.

Tokyo stock decline is but a taste of more to come

TOKYO, March 30. (Reuters) The fall of more than 1,000 points in the Tokyo Stock Market's key Nikkei Index today is just a bitter taste of more to come, market analysts say.

But while some analysts fear a big chunk of the selling could come next week with the start of a new business year, others expect a more gradual decline.

"I think there is an awful lot of selling to be done, but that will happen in a fairly boring way rather than 2,000 points a day," said Andrew Ballingal, strategist at Barclays de Zoete Wedel Securities (Japan).

The closely watched Nikkei plunged 1,045.71 points today, ending the day 3.37 per cent down at 29,980.45. That combined with losses earlier this week more than wiped out a 4.83 per cent rise on Monday and left the Nikkei down 1.29 per cent for the week.

Worries over a declining yen, rising interest rates and slower corporate profit growth have since 23 per cent off the index since it finished 1989 at a record 38,915.87.

Today's plunge betrayed market expectations of "window dressing" buying by institutions and funds whose portfolios will be evaluated on prices at the end of the day.

"There was supposed to be window dressing today, but everything went in the opposite direction," said Kunie Misaki, senior analyst at Nikko Securities Co. Ltd.

Inflation will jump

Profit boost for Pearson

LONDON, March 30. (Reuters) Pearson Plc, whose interests range from investment banking to the Financial Times newspaper, announced today its 1989 pre-tax profits rose 26 per cent to £250.5 million (\$41.8 million).

The profit increase was better than expected, thanks to strong growth in the group's main business activities, financial analysts said.

Pearson, which owns Madame Tussaud's waxworks in London, announced it was paying £60 million (\$98 million) to buy Alton Towers, a Central England theme park that is one of the country's most popular tourist attractions.

Pearson also said it was planning to raise \$715 million (\$117.3 million) by selling new shares to finance the Alton Towers purchase and other acquisitions.

The following are highlights from Pearson's 1989 results against 1988 figures:

Pre-tax profit £250.5 million vs 198.8 million

Sales £1.459 billion vs 1.194 billion

Earnings per share 67p vs 55.7p

Dividend 21.5p vs 18p

Meanwhile, Britain's inflation, the scourge of Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, will jump to an eight-year high of 7.5 per cent this summer from 7.5 per cent now, the country's central bank chief said yesterday.

It could even go higher because of increased home loan payments, higher excise duties and price rises in gas and electricity, Bank of England governor Robin Leigh-Pemberton told a parliamentary committee.

"My instinct is that it will peak in the early part of the summer at around nine per cent," Leigh-Pemberton said.

Asked whether he thought it could rise even more, he said: "Yes, maybe higher."

Leigh-Pemberton said base interest rates, currently at 15 per cent, were "satisfactory" but predicted they could fall by three or four per cent by the end of the year were optimistic.



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Bombay shares

Bombay Stock Exchange prices (Rs)			
March 30, '90	Pr. Close	Open	Close
ACC	386	385	389
Alcon Chem	—	—	—
Alcon Ind	—	—	—
Am Fab	—	—	—
Ashok Ley	74	72.50	74
Asia Paint	230	230	233.75
Atlas Cop	37	35.50	36
Auto Corp	57.50	56.25	58.75
Nat Indes	415.83	—	415.24
Bar Rayon	398.75	398.75	408.75
Blow Plast	780	775	792.50
Bom Dye	192.50	192.50	195
BK Bond	112.50	110	114
Burt Wel	85	80	85
Canabare	—	—	—
Cen Enka	3300	3325	3400
Cen Sps	3130	3140	3200
Colgate	221.25	221.25	223.75
Cromi Gr	—	—	—
DCM	17.50	32	30.75
Deep Fert	56	55	56
Dunlop	64	62	64
Ed Hotel	85	83.50	85
Esports	—	—	—
BSE Index	770.30	—	767.74
Ekaveer	135	132.50	132.50
Essar Sps	34.50	34.50	33.75
Food Sps	121.25	120	125
Forbes	49	48	52
Gar Poly	35	35	33.50
Glindia	100	98	99.50
GNFC	41.25	41	41
Grain	121	119	120
Grain	48	48.25	48.50
GSFC	182.50	182.50	178.75
Guj Alki	83.50	82	83.50
Guj Heavy	17	16	15
Hero Honda	19	17	19
Hind Ciba	1270	1240	1250
Hind Lever	118	117	118.50
Hind Cocos	162.50	162.50	165
Hind Motor	24.50	23.75	23.50
Hindalco	270	270	267.50
Spic	58.75	58	57.75
Si Mills	75	74	74.50
Tata Oil	123.50	122.50	123.50
Tata Chem	445	450	445
Tata Pow	123.50	122.50	123.50
Telco	—	—	—
Thapp Agro	124.50	125	124
Vani Org	146.25	141.25	143.75
Vand	—	—	—
Volta	70	68	70
Wimco	30.25	19.50	18.75
Zenith	56	53	55
Zuari Agro	64	61	62

Compiled by Kuwait-India International Exchange Co.

CANADIAN IMMIGRATION — WINNERS AND LOSERS

by John Garuffi and Banito Rotella

Part 8: Montreal

Let's get one thing straight from the start. Montreal is not Paris. It is a distinctly North American city; the city that swings in the summer and goes underground in the winter. If you choose to live in Montreal, and hundreds of thousands have, you will have a taste of the good side of Paris and not what parts of modern day Paris have to offer: pollution, exorbitant housing prices, nightmarish traffic. And people in Montreal are internationally known as far friendlier and more hospitable.

French culture is there. You can see and hear it everywhere. But if you don't speak French then you can enjoy its bilingual world or you can do what many new residents do: take French classes. The provincial government often foots the bill for this. Remember before you balk at this suggestion that the difference between French and English is much smaller than the difference between English and Arabic, Urdu, Hindi or Chinese.

Montreal is second to Toronto as the Canadian economic hub. It is the financial, cultural and transportation capital of the province of Quebec. Montrealers, most of whom are fluently bilingual, live basically in two large sections of the city. The anglophones tend to populate Westmount, which is to the west of the city, while the francophones live in the center and on the other side. But it's not as partisan as it sounds.

Physically, most people wax eloquent about Montreal. The skyline is dotted with gigantic high rises and buildings of modern day business, all of which emerge against a background of the Saint Lawrence river. Then of course there is old Montreal (le vieux Montreal) where so much of Montreal's past has been either saved or restored. Here, cobblestone streets wind through an abundance of bistros, restaurants, cafes and artisans' shops. It is the pride of most of the Quebecois.

But quaint heritage is not enough for the settler. Even if you only manage to pay a visit, you'll see its reputation as one of the best run cities in the world with one of the most impressive public transport

systems and an urban environment that has been the envy and model of many of the world's top urban planners.

There are two international airports; Mirabel being the largest in Canada. The city is joined to the rest of the country by VIA Rail, Canada's rail system. It is the home of some of the finest restaurants and hotels in North America. And to give you some idea of it, did you know that it was the second largest French-speaking city in the world?

If you like night-life, then you will soon learn that Montreal for some doesn't seem to doze off at any time of the day or night. And, which is typical of a young country like Canada, the various lifestyles and ethnic interests of its population are catered for on a generous scale. But don't get the wrong idea; it's not New York or Rio or Los Angeles. Your sons and your daughters and yourself are completely safe in this city. Why the crime is so low in Montreal is a question that still baffles sociologists, but it's a fact and you only have to see the public outcry and furor when something untoward happens to realize that the Quebecois are proud of their reputation and determined to keep it that way.

So much for the good points. What about the bad ones? Well, not many bad things are said about Montreal. They are usually comments about the weather in winter, but since the underground city has been created there isn't much justification for this. Some newcomers find it hard to cope with French, but these are only a few. You have to see to believe it, really. It's still fairly inexpensive and the only thing you'll have to watch is your waistline with Montreal's reputation for international cuisine.

You probably have got the idea that we are hooked on Montreal. Most people are and it's difficult to tone down the praise. But if you don't believe us, come and see for yourself. And if you want some help in deciding if it is the city for you, give us a call. In the meantime, we'll look hard for something bad to say about Montreal so you'll believe in our objectivity. Contact: 5332731.



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	Amount of Issue:	KD 60 million	KD 60 million
	Issue Date :	Wednesday 4/4/1990	4/4/1990
	Due Date :	Wednesday 27/6/1990	3/10/1990
	Offering Period:	From : Saturday 31/3/1990	31/3/1990
		To : Tuesday 3/4/1990	3/4/1990
	Allotment:	Wednesday 4/4/1990	4/4/1990

2. Delivery of Bills: After one week following the date of submitting the application.

3. The Provisions of these Issues shall be subject to the Rules and Conditions stipulated in the Announcement for Subscription in Issue No. (1) for Treasury Bills, published in the Local Newspapers of Saturday, November 21, 1987 and in the Official Gazette (Kuwait Al-Yaum) No.1746 issued Sunday, November 22, 1987.

Paribas raises '89 profit and dividend

Following are Paribas' main figures for 1989, with 1988 comparisons:

- Attributable net profit 3.45 billion francs vs 2.65 billion
- Earnings per share 61.1 francs vs 49.3
- Balance sheet total 807 billion vs 737 billion
- Assets per share 790 vs 610
- Customer credits 395 billion vs 346 billion
- Customer deposits 253 billion vs 223 billion
- Investments 54.3 billion vs 35.5 billion

(French francs converted at 5.71 per dollar)

US GNP growth quickens

Japanese

MOSCOW, March 30. (AP): The Soviet economy is heading either for the "shock therapy" of a quick plunge into a market economy, or for a consumer revolt that would block all reforms, in the view of the head of the state price committee.

The Soviet leadership has been casting about for ways to resuscitate the collapsing economy, which is plagued by an unconvertible currency, inefficient central planning and state-set prices that often are artificially low.

Vyacheslav Semenchagov, the head of the committee that sets

approach, such as that taken by Poland, appears to be inevitable if "the population's confidence in the government does not fall so low as to make no reforms possible."

Under a radical conversion to a market economy, prices for raw materials and consumer goods are likely to rise drastically, the value of the rouble would plummet and unemployment would soar as inefficient industries are streamlined. Senchagov said in remarks carried by the official news agency Tass.

Soviet President Mikhail S.

omy. Last week, a source confident in previous news reports that Gorbachev's economists are working on a 17-point programme for radical economic reforms, including a market system and the convertibility of the Soviet Union's currency on world markets.

The source, who is working on the programme, said Soviet economists were encouraged by Poland's tough measures, which went into effect on Jan. 1. They were worried they might cause widespread unemployment and the need for a vast, we-

regard to actual costs, creating artificially low prices for oil and gas and many natural resources, as well as for food and basic consumer goods.

But the artificially low return for Soviet industry stifles production and initiative.

Subsidies to keep prices low now cost the Soviet government 100 billion roubles a year, Senchagov said. The total volume of the country's retail trade is only five times more.

Soviet consumers have become used to a system that offers a minimum of choice for

Meanwhile, the number of Japanese women working in manufacturing decreased 2.3 percent from a year ago. The female workforce in manufacturing stood at 800,000, or 3.4 percent of the average number of Japanese workers at 330,000, it said.

Agency spokesmen said the number of female workers were getting smaller.

The February figure from manufacturing decreased 2.1 percent in services, 2.1 percent in wholesaler-retailer, and 2.1 percent, according to the agency.

The number of jobholders grew by 1.5 million from earlier to 60.5 million, the agency said, in 122 million.

Force reached 74.24 million women, up by 1.8 million from a year earlier, it said. In 1987, the new female jobholders per month was

Koki Touda said the dramatic increase in workers was mainly because more married part-time jobs after they finish raising

industries by industry also showed a shift away from manufacturing and into services. The number of workers increased by 160,000, or 1.1 percent, from a year ago. The number jumped by 650,000, or 5.1 percent, in oil and food processing, it says. By 288,000 in construction, it changed by 10,000, or 0.5 percent, last July report.

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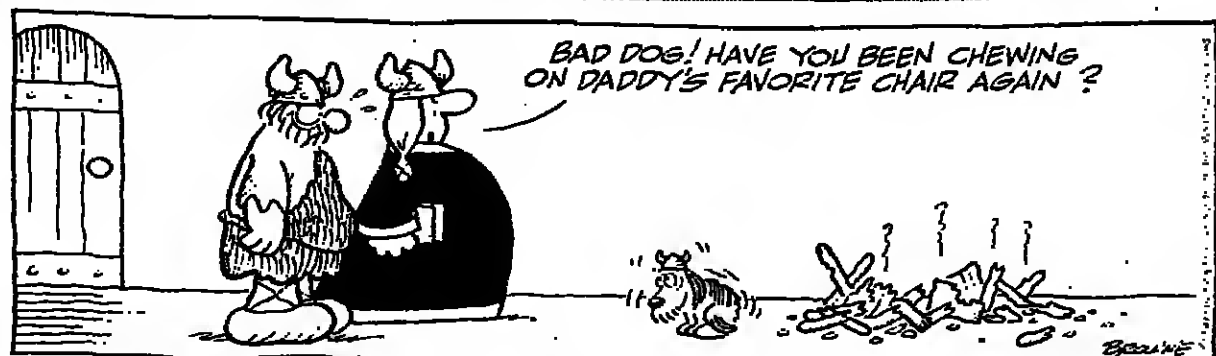
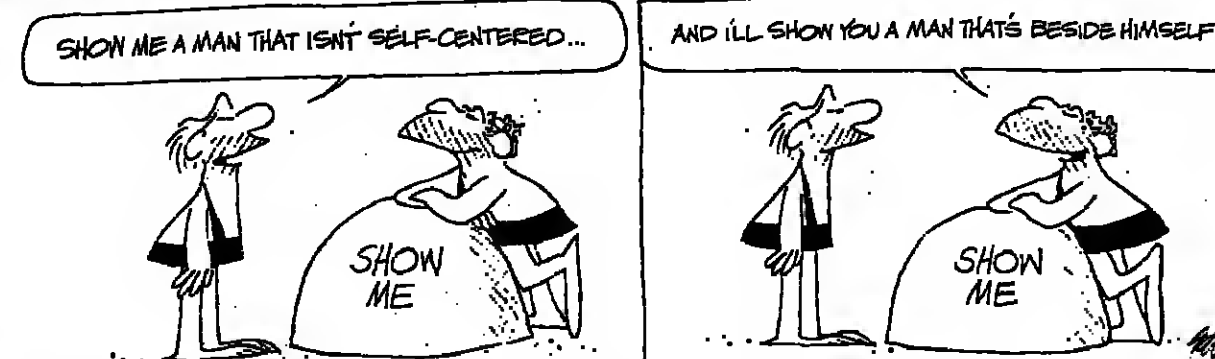
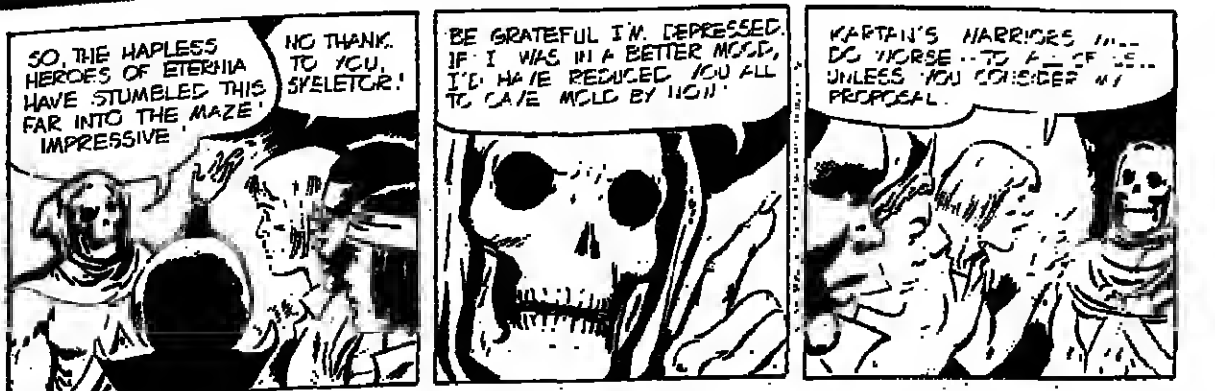
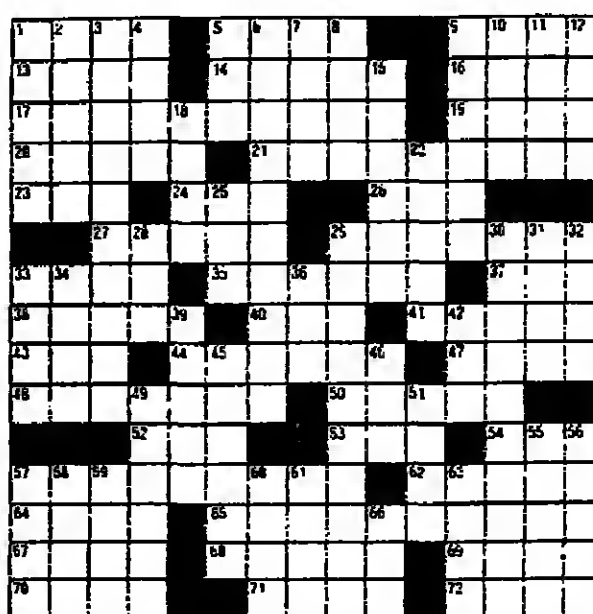
Honda Motor	176
Ito Yokado Co	362
Kajima Corp	166
Kawasaki H I	72
Kobe Cast Iron	108
Kokusai Elec.	507
Komatsu Ltd.	103

- 60	ShinEtsu Chem	5880	-210
- 170	Shindengen Elec	1490	-30
- 40	Sony Corp	1250	-60
- 59	Sumitomo Elec Ind	8000	-250
- 30	Sumitomo Metal Ind	1400	-40
- 130	Sumitomo Metal Ind	539	-38
+ 10	Banking (MidEast), Bahrain		

the 1990s, the number of people in the world who are under 15 years of age is expected to increase from 1.1 billion to 1.5 billion. The number of people aged 65 and over is expected to increase from 250 million to 450 million. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion. The number of people aged 15 and over is expected to increase from 3.5 billion to 4.5 billion.

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 - 5 Pacific Coast valley
 - 9 Hunk of cheese
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 - 14 Slumber disturber
 - 16 Flashy fruit
 - 17 Holiday treats
 - 19 Baltic Sea feeder
 - 20 Issues
 - 21 Shrinking
 - 23 Follower of 57
 - 24 Irving or Carter
 - 26 — Lit. course
 - 27 Seer's deck
 - 29 Rescue site in Uganda
 - 33 Foot lead-in
 - 35 Claw
 - 37 Boxing VIP
 - 38 Guinness and Waugh
 - 40 Angora
 - 41 Incident
 - 43 Baseball's Preacher
 - 44 Artist's medium
 - 47 Actor Richardson and others
 - 48 Author Madame —, 1766-1817
 - 50 Prepared a pippin
 - 52 Printer's measures
 - 53 Cuckoo's relative
 - 54 Wide's companion
 - 57 Musician in motley
 - 62 1938 Nobelist in physics
 - 64 Barren
 - 65 Parnelo
 - 67 Author Vidal
- DOWN**
- 68 The south wind
 - 69 — day's wonder
 - 70 Unusual person
 - 71 African fox
 - 72 Seasons seasons
 - 1 Contrue
 - 2 Actress
 - 3 Papaw and persimmon
 - 4 Leave out
 - 5 White House org.
 - 6 — geometry
 - 7 Dawdle
 - 8 Brother of Eris
 - 9 Type of cake
 - 10 Napoleon victory site
 - 11 So be it
 - 12 Glacier's call
 - 15 Ancient ascotic
 - 18 Autocrat
 - 22 — nous
 - 25 Swab
 - 28 Former energy org.
 - 29 Genus of algae
 - 30 Bounty's cargo
 - 31 British politician
 - 32 Newts
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 - 34 Lotion
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 - 42 Contest
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 - 56 Ceremonies
 - 57 Hall of a Samoan island
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 - 59 Green land
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 - 61 Diner sign
 - 63 Osprey's cousin
 - 66 Ending with Japan or Siam

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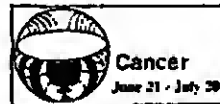
GOREN BRIDGE

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ANSWERS TO WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

- Q.1—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠5 ♥963 ♦AK9852 ♣KJ6
Your right-hand opponent opens the bidding with a weak two-heart-bid. What action do you take?
A.—Treat an opening weak two-bid much as if opener had bid one of the suit. You would have overcalled one heart with two diamonds, so bid three diamonds over two hearts.
- Q.2—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK63 ♥87 ♦1043 ♣A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass ?
A.—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You want to tell partner you have game aspirations but you don't want to bypass three no trump, which might be your only makable game should partner have a heart stopper. The way to convey that information is to cue-bid three hearts, which indicates a strong hand, but says nothing about control of the suit itself.
- Q.3—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠5 ♥963 ♦AK9852 ♣KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
A.—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a dead minimum for an overcall at the three-level. As is usual in situations where you have already bid your values, sign off in the cheapest strain available. Bid four diamonds.
- Q.4—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠5 ♥963 ♦AK9852 ♣KJ6
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
A.—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You have a dead minimum for an overcall at the three-level. As is usual in situations where you have already bid your values, sign off in the cheapest strain available. Bid four diamonds.
- Q.5—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:**
♠AK63 ♥87 ♦1043 ♣A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass ?
A.—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You want to tell partner you have game aspirations but you don't want to bypass three no trump, which might be your only makable game should partner have a heart stopper. The way to convey that information is to cue-bid three hearts, which indicates a strong hand, but says nothing about control of the suit itself.
- Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:**
♠AK63 ♥87 ♦1043 ♣A984
The bidding has proceeded:
West North East South
2♥ 3♦ Pass 3♥
A.—Weak
What do you bid now?
A.—You want to tell partner you have game aspirations but you don't want to bypass three no trump, which might be your only makable game should partner have a heart stopper. The way to convey that information is to cue-bid three hearts, which indicates a strong hand, but says nothing about control of the suit itself.

**YOUR STARS**

Aries
March 21 - April 20
You will have a good idea and you will be able to put it into practice too. Try not to think gloomy thoughts but do not ignore the difficulties either. Make sure you do not do anything that would upset your partner. Be resourceful.



Cancer
June 21 - July 20
You will have to deal with a rather ebullient person and should keep as calm as possible yourself. Do not lose sight of your objectives as you are rather inclined to do. Show a little more goodwill towards others. Be cautious.



Libra
Sept. 23 - Oct. 22
You will feel to rather high spirits and must take care not to do anything foolish. Your lucky numbers are 8 and 22. You will have a disappointment but you will be able to take it in your stride. Try to ensure you do not get into a muddle. Be less adamant.



Capricorn
Dec. 21 - Jan. 19
You will be able to draw the right conclusions in some respects, but you should not assume they are all right to every respect. Something you have been finding difficult will now become much easier to understand. You should take a little more care of your appearance. Be independent.



Taurus
April 21 - May 20
You will now be able to put something you have learnt recently to good use. You will tend to be rather too exuberant and should do a little towards curbing your emotions. However do not 'bottle them up'. Be flexible.



Leo
July 21 - Aug. 21
Make sure that you get a good rest, but also ensure you do not become lazy. Try not to allow anything to put you off your track. Take care you do not permit a mere cold to turn into a serious chest infection. Be true to your word.



Scorpio
Oct. 23 - Nov. 22
You should try not to overcommit yourself, but you should make sure you meet the commitments you have already entered into. You will be able to put most of it right. Avoid allowing your prejudices to cloud your judgment. Be hopeful.



Aquarius
Jan. 20 - Feb. 19
You are rather more liable to say the wrong thing, and should deliberate a little more before you open your mouth. This is a good time to make a few changes provided you have thought about them carefully first. You should not take everything quite so seriously.



Gemini
May 21 - June 20
You will be able to do something very much to your liking. Make sure though you do not neglect an essential routine that you do not much like. And do your best to avoid getting into debt. Be less obstinate.



Virgo
Aug. 23 - Sept. 22
Something you have been trying to do without much apparent effect hitherto will now show results. Once again everything is taking longer, so do not waste any time. Try to spend a little more time with your family. Be sensible.



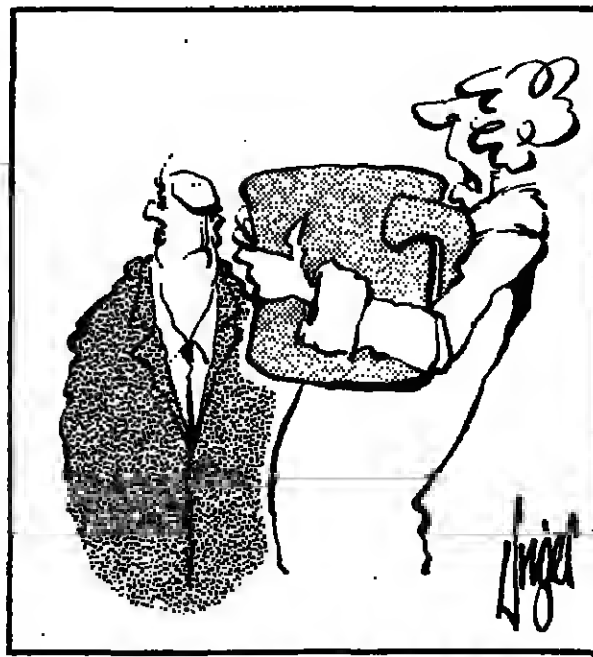
Sagittarius
Nov. 23 - Dec. 20
You are a little more vulnerable and should try not to expose yourself to a risky or doubtful situation. There is no time for all you would like to do, so choose what you do carefully. Be wise before the event.



Pisces
Feb. 20 - March 20
Something you thought would present no problems will not turn out as smoothly as you had hoped. Seek to avoid exaggerations and do not go to extremes either. Do not become involved in what does not concern you. Be perceptive.



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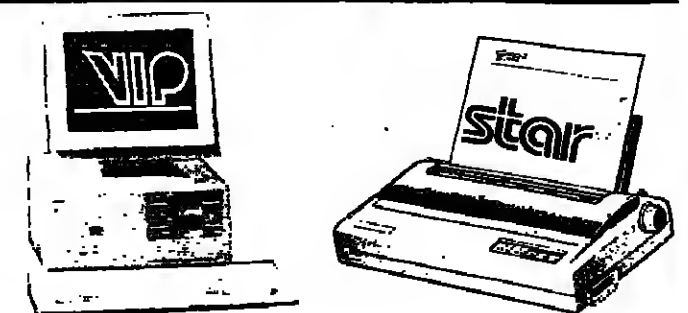
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England, Scotland, Soviet Union win South American giants fall

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): England and Scotland took heart for the World Cup finals with a pair of encouraging 1-0 victories over South American giants Brazil and Argentina on Wednesday.

Gary Lineker headed a 35th-minute goal which proved enough for England to beat Brazil for only the third time. It was the first defeat inflicted

on Brazil in 15 matches, though the three times world champions felt they were denied an equaliser, claiming defender Stuart Pearce had punched out a shot by substitute Muller in the 65th minute.

Stewart McKimmie struck in the 32nd minute to propel Scotland to their victory in Glasgow and compound the worries of Argentina, who begin the

defence of their crown against Cameroon in Milan on June 8.

With Diego Maradona half a world away in Japan fulfilling an advertising contract, it was the ninth successive match in which Argentina had failed to score since July.

Thirteen of the 24 World Cup finalists were in action, including the Soviet Union who sounded their challenge to Argentina in Group B with a 2-1 win in Kiev over the Netherlands, their conquerors in the 1988 European Championship final.

Ulf Kirsten plundered a hat-trick to give non-qualifiers East Germany a 3-2 win over the United States, who suffered their second World Cup warm-up defeat in eight days following a 2-0 reverse against Hungary in Budapest.

Second-half substitute Gerhard Rodax scored a stunning last-gasp solo goal to see Austria to a 3-2 win over Spain in Malaga after they had trailed 2-0 at half-time.

Bernie Slaven celebrated his debut for Ireland with a goal four minutes from time which sealed a 1-0 win in Dublin over Wales, who failed to reach the World Cup finals.

Yugoslavia were held to a goalless draw by non-qualifiers Poland in Lodz as they looked ahead to their Group D battles with West Germany, Colombia

and the United Arab Emirates.

Daniel Tofte netted twice in four minutes to put Romania 2-0 up against Egypt in Cairo in 22 minutes. Ahmed El-Kas pulled one back for Egypt on the half-hour but Gavril Baling made the final score 3-1 three minutes from time.

Romania face Argentina, Cameroon and the Soviet Union in Group B in Italy, while Egypt take on England, Ireland and the Netherlands in Group F.

The Dutch were undone by an error by Ronald Koeman, who failed to control a simple pass and let in substitute Vladimir Lyut for an 80th-minute winner. Eleven minutes earlier Barcelona sweeper Koeman had scored a penalty to equalise after a 10th-minute strike by Oleg Protasov, also from the penalty spot.

Koeman captained a heavily-depleted Dutch side which featured only three members of the victorious 1988 European championship final line-up, with AC Milan trio Ruud Gullit, Marco van Basten and Frank Rijkaard among the absentees.

Spain could not have been quicker off the mark, going 1-0 up through Manolo Sanchez in the opening minute, and they appeared well on the way to victory when captain Emilio Butragueno added a second in the 33rd minute.

But Austria came to life with a reshaped line-up in the second half. Alfred Hoernigel scored a minute after the interval and Anton Polster — Spanish club Sevilla's Austrian import — made it 2-2.

Rodax, the Austrian League's most prolific marksman this season, upstaged them all when he ran through the Spanish defence and slipped a shot between the goalkeeper's legs for the winner one minute from the end.

Austria will need that sort of confidence when they face hosts Italy in their World Cup opener in Rome on June 9 in Group A, which also features Czechoslovakia and the United States.

The Americans are collecting European experience but they had a frustrating night in East Berlin despite goals by Peter Vermes and substitute Bruce Murray.

England, world champions on home soil in 1966, extended their unbeaten run to 15 matches with their first defeat at their Wembley headquarters over the Brazilians for 34 years.

But manager Bobby Robson said Brazil, who have defeated both Italy and the Netherlands in recent months, would be the team to beat in the World Cup. The Brazilians share Group C with Scotland, Sweden and Costa Rica.



Brazil's Careca (left) looks to pass off in front of England's Terry Butcher. (Reuters wirephoto)

Cantona takes France to victory over Hungary

BUDAPEST, March 30, (Reuters): Eric Cantona scored twice to lead France to a comfortable 3-1 win over Hungary on Wednesday in a friendly between two of soccer's former great powers.

Unlike most other teams in action in Europe on Wednesday, neither France, semifinalists at the last two World Cups, nor Hungary, giants of the 1950s, will have a part to play in this year's World Cup finals in Italy.

France gave team chief Michel Platini encouragement for the future with goals from Cantona in the 29th and 67th minutes and a third from Franck Sauzeau in the 72nd.

Attila Pinter scored Hungary's only goal in the 39th minute from a penalty.

France took the lead when Cantona ran on to a brilliant job from Sauzeau, which ripped open the Hungarian defensive trap. He avoided a flying tackle by goalkeeper Istvan Brockhauser and shot in to an empty net.

Hungary equalised 10 minutes later after French keeper Bruno Martini brought down Kalman Kovacs, who now plays for French First Division Auxerre, inside the penalty box. Pinter easily converted the penalty.

Hungary's resistance collapsed half an hour from the end when Kovacs and another exile in France — Gyorgy Bognar of Toulon — were substituted.

Cantona headed in at the end of a move involving Bernard Pardo, Christian Perez and Luis Fernandez, the rugged midfielder recalled by Platini after nearly two years out of the team.

Five minutes later Sauzeau volleyed home a perfect pass from Perez from 20 metres.

SPORTS BRIEFS

Egypt manager

CAIRO, March 30, (Reuters): Egypt's national soccer manager Mahmoud El Gohary, who announced his resignation on Wednesday, has agreed to stay on until after this summer's World Cup finals, a sports official said yesterday.

Giorgi sacked

FLORENCE, Italy, March 30, (Reuters): Italian First Division club Fiorentina have sacked manager Bruno Giorgi just a week before the side meets Werder Bremen in West Germany in the semifinals of the UEFA Cup.

UEFA clashes

BREMEN, West Germany, March 30, (Reuters): West Germany's Werder Bremen and Italy's Fiorentina have brought forward both legs of their UEFA Cup soccer semifinal by 24 hours. Werder will play hosts on April 3 with the second leg played in Italy on April 17, Werder said yesterday.

Strict regime

MONTE CARLO, Italy, March 30, (Reuters): Host team Italy will be put on a strict regime of no sex but lots of pasta to boost their chances of winning a fourth soccer World Cup this summer.

British soccer

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): Results of British soccer matches played on Wednesday: English Division Two Oldham 0; Sheffield United 2; English Division Four Exeter 1; Scunthorpe 0; Hereford 0; Burnley 1.

Cup stadiums

TIRRENIA, Italy, March 30, (Reuters): Building work at three of the 12 Italian stadiums due to host the World Cup finals in June is still behind schedule, Italian organisers said on Wednesday.

Milan's pitch

MILAN, Italy, March 30, (Reuters): Milan's San Siro pitch, called a 'Potato Patch' by players, will be returned for the soccer World Cup if it is not in acceptable condition by April 29, officials said on Wednesday.

Brazilian striker

AMSTERDAM, March 30, (Reuters): Brazilian striker Romario faces a battle to be fit for the World Cup finals following a second operation on the right leg he broke earlier this month, a spokesman for his club PSV Eindhoven said Wednesday.

Substitute 'keeper

MARSEILLE, France, March 30, (Reuters): European Cup semifinalists Marseille said on Wednesday they had hired Laval's Pascal Rousseau as their second goalkeeper after Gaetan Huard broke his leg last week.

Rittenhouse ahead

RANCHO MIRAGE, Calif., March 30, (Reuters): Leona Rittenhouse shot a five-under-par 67 yesterday to take a two-stroke lead after the first round of the \$600,000 Dinah Shore Classic, the first major championship of the 1990 US women's golf Tour.

Senior debut

SCOTTSDALE, Ariz., March 30, (Reuters): The much-anticipated Senior Tour debut of Jack Nicklaus was put on hold yesterday as heavy rain washed out the opening round of the \$800,000 Tradition Golf Tournament.

Horgan leads

WOODLANDS, Texas, March 30, (Reuters): P.H. Horgan shot a six-under-par 66 and held a one stroke lead over five players when rain forced suspension of play at the \$1 million Woodlands Open Golf Tournament yesterday.

Equestrian events

BERNE, March 30, (Reuters): Several countries could withdraw from the equestrian events at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics despite assurances from Spain that it has eradicated African horse plague. International Equestrian Federation (FEI) president Princess Anne said yesterday.

McKay suspended

INDIANAPOLIS, March 30, (Reuters): US Olympian and world indoor 400 metres champion Antonio McKay was suspended for three months after testing positive for a banned substance, the Athletics Congress (TAC) announced yesterday.

Referees not fit enough, says Blatter

TIRRENIA, Italy, March 30, (Reuters): At least half the 36 referees chosen for the World Cup finals in Italy are not fit enough, International Football Federation (Fifa) secretary-general Sepp Blatter said on Wednesday.

Blatter told a news conference at the end of a three-day training course for the referees selected for the 52-match tournament: "There are shortcomings in the physical condition of some of the referees and those concerned have been told."

"Now they have two months to get themselves fully fit for the start of the World Cup," Blatter said.

"Otherwise we will open a reserve list," added Fifa's Harry Cavan.

The referees said to be in worst shape before the finals start on June 8 were France's Michel Vautrot, Scotland's George Smith, Austria's Helmut Kohl and Zoran Petrovic of Yugoslavia.

Vautrot, who has been widely tipped to officiate at the final in Rome on July 9, and Smith did not take part in fitness tests including strenuous distance running at the Tirrenia training ground on Tuesday because of injury problems.

Kohl and Petrovic fared worst in the running tests.

Liverpool set to oust Villa from top

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): Liverpool will return to the top of the English Soccer League if they beat Southampton tomorrow, but perhaps for only 24 hours as leaders Aston Villa play relegation strugglers Manchester City on Sunday.

Liverpool, who trail Villa by three points but with two games in hand, knocked Southampton out of the Football Association (FA) Cup with a 3-0 win at Anfield in February and should have little trouble repeating the performance.

Victory would move them ahead of Villa on goal difference, but the League leaders will be equally confident of beating Manchester City at home despite their recent erratic form.

Villa have won only twice in their last seven

games and went down 1-0 at Crystal Palace last weekend.

Liverpool's championship challenge faltered last week, however, when their 20-match unbeaten run in the League came to an end at Tottenham.

Champions Arsenal still retain a vestige of hope that they can retain their title after bouncing back to form with a 3-1 win at Derby last week but will need to repeat that display at home to Everton tomorrow.

Arsenal are currently third, nine points behind Villa with a game in hand and two points ahead of fourth-placed Everton, emphatic 3-1 winners over Norwich last week.

At the lower end of the table Manchester

United will be looking to put more distance between them and the relegation zone when they take on Coventry at home.

United, who meet Second Division Oldham in the FA Cup semifinals next month, climbed four points clear of the bottom three with a 2-0 away win at Southampton last week.

Luton, two points and a place below United, hope to be reinforced by the return of three key players for their game at Norwich tomorrow.

Central defenders David Beaumont and Darren McDougall and Danish striker Lars Elstrup have all been out of action for months because of injury but all three have played reserve games.

McNeil stuns Sabatini in opener

SAN ANTONIO, Texas, March 30, (Reuters): American Lori McNeil stunned top seed Gabriela Sabatini of Argentina with a 6-3 6-4 victory in the first round of the \$225,000 US Women's Hardcourt Championships last night.

Sabatini, the world number three, was upset in the quarterfinals of the International Players' Championships last week but had not dropped an opening round match since October 1988.

"I think the reason I lost is because I didn't concentrate. I also was not serving well," said Sabatini, who lost her serve seven times in the one hour eight minute match.

McNeil, once ranked in the top-10, has fallen on hard times of late and her ranking has plummeted to 54th. But the American played an aggressive attacking game and proved to be a very dangerous first round opponent.

Third seed Manuela Maleeva of Switzerland needed just 47 minutes to eliminate South African Elna Reinach 6-2 6-0 in another first round match.

Maleeva, ranked ninth in the world, ran off 11 straight games after falling behind 1-2 in the first set. Seventeen-year-old qualifier Carrie Cunningham came roaring back after losing the first set and dropping her serve in the opening game of the second set to oust fellow American Kathy Rinaldi 4-6 6-1 6-4.

"I started off real slow. I knew I was going to lose the match so I started attacking more," Cunningham said.

McNeil broke Sabatini in the eighth game of the opener to go 3-3 up and delivered an ace at set point in the next game to close out the 31-minute first set. Sabatini broke McNeil early in the second set to take a 3-1 lead, but the American broke right back and held serve to level the set 3-3.

The traded breaks in the next two games for 4-4 but McNeil came up with her seventh service break of the match for a 5-4 lead and sealed her upset in the next game when she punched a forehand volley past Sabatini at match point.

Lendl and Chang win in Chicago

CHICAGO, March 30, (Reuters): Top seed and defending champion Ivan Lendl needed three sets to win his second round match yesterday, while second seed Michael Chang posted a straight-set victory at the \$500,000-Chicago Tennis Tournament.

Lendl defeated American Leif Shiras 6-2 6-7 6-2 in a match that included several disputed calls and a plea by the world number nine to turn off the Cyclops electronic line judge during the tight tiebreak which he dropped 7-5.

French Open champion Michael Chang ousted fellow American Todd Martin 6-3 6-4 to advance to a quarterfinal against eight-seed compatriot Paul Annacone, a 6-2 6-3 winner over Nicolas Pereira of Venezuela.

Chang, who is coming back from a hip injury looked to be his usual speedy self and controlled the match throughout.

"I'm healed or else I wouldn't be here," said the ninth-ranked Chang.

Lendl, who hammered in five of his 16 aces in the opening set, held his first serve at love and reeled off four straight games from 2-2 to take the set.

Despite eight second-set aces by Lendl, Shiras put up a struggle and forced a tiebreak which he won with a disputed ace at set point.

"They told me the lines on the court were crooked and we could get bad calls, so I asked them to turn the Cyclops off before we got into trouble," Lendl said. "It hasn't worked in 12 years," he added.

The third set mirrored the first as Lendl swept the last four games, breaking Shiras at love in the final game. Lendl will next face Amos Mansdorf of Israel, who earlier upset seventh-seeded American Scott Davis 7-6 6-2.

Brabham's son

LONDON, March 30, (Reuters): David Brabham, youngest of Sir Jack Brabham's three racing driver sons, has agreed to join the Formula One team founded by his father. Brabham, 24, will replace Swiss Gregor Foitek in the Brabham team for the San Marino Grand Prix at Imola on May 13, a team spokesman confirmed yesterday.

Federal judge chides baseball officials

PHILADELPHIA, March 30, (AP): A federal judge yesterday reopened a hearing on the stalled labour dispute involving Major League umpires and chided baseball management and union officials for not being able to settle their differences.

Both sides had agreed Tuesday to end their dispute by arbitration, but on Wednesday the two sides still couldn't agree on an arbitrator.

The umpires were scheduled to working spring training

games today, but that appeared impossible after the latest fallout. Judge Stanley Greenberg withdrew as the independent arbitrator at the request of management.

The umpires are boycotting spring training games to protest not being consulted when regular-season games were rescheduled after the 32-day lock-out ended.

US district judge Norma L. Shapiro, who presided at Tuesday's hearing on baseball's

request for a restraining order, gave both sides 10 minutes this morning to settle matters.

"There is an offer on the table," she said. "The parties have had ample time to resolve this." She told them they were welcome to try to negotiate an end to the dispute over a lunch break.

The judge opened the hearing with testimony from American League president Bobby Brown.

"It's important that they (umpires) get some work in before the beginning of the regular championship season," Brown said. He acknowledged that he hadn't contacted umpires' union head Richie Phillips about the impact of the lockout settlement on umpires.

● Texas Rangers' star Nolan Ryan, baseball's all-time strikeout king, hinted at retirement a few months ago but now says he might pitch beyond this season, the Dallas Morning News reported yesterday.

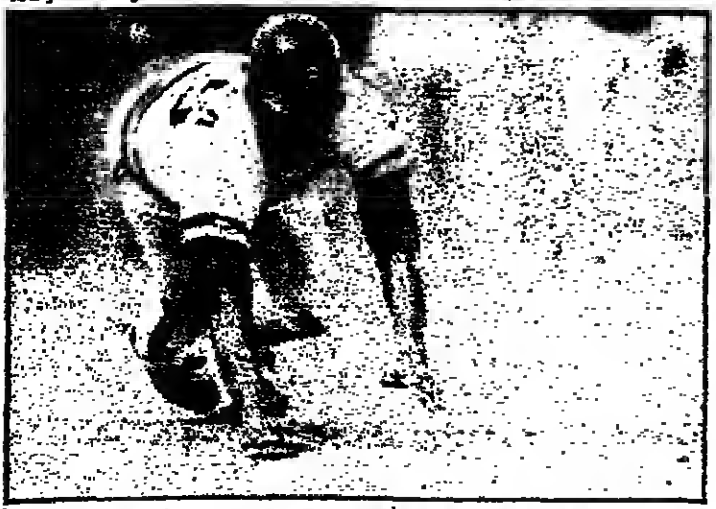
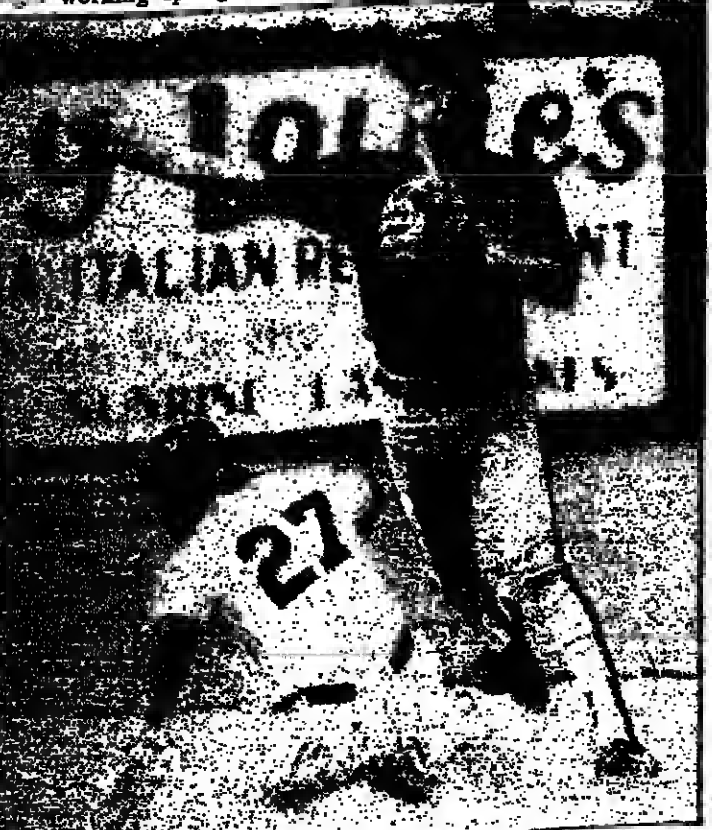
Dick Moss, Ryan's agent, met with Rangers general manager Tom Grieve on Wednesday to discuss a contract extension for Ryan, the newspaper said.

Ryan's two-year contract expires after this season. Each side considered the talks exploratory, the newspaper reported. Moss relayed Ryan's interest in playing beyond 1990 and asked Grieve what the Rangers level of interest would be in keeping Ryan, who is 43.

"Nolan still feels pretty good," Moss said. "This is a nice situation for Nolan. He loves it here with the Rangers. I think the club likes having him, too. Something might happen."

The Rangers are interested in bringing Ryan back both as an attraction and a pitcher. His gate appeal figured heavily in last year's club-record attendance of more than 2 million.

For Ryan's 19th home starts, the Rangers had an average attendance of 28,420.



Baltimore Orioles, New York Yankees and Pittsburgh Pirates in action during their spring training Major League baseball games. (Reuters wirephoto)

Canadiens' Eric Desjardins and Nordiques' Jeff Jackson collide along the boards. (Reuters wirephoto)

Canadiens win easily

QUEBEC, March 30, (AP): Russ Courtnall scored once and added three assists as Montreal kept alive its chances of finishing second in the Adams Division with a 5-2 victory over the Quebec Nordiques.

Guy Carbonneau and Mike McPhee, who each added two assists, Brian Skrudland and Eric Desjardins also scored for the Canadiens, who trail second-place Buffalo by three points. Each team has two games left.

Joe Sakic and Tony McKegney scored for the Nordiques in the third period after Montreal had a 4-0 lead.

The victory gave the Canadiens seven wins in eight games this season against their provincial rivals, who lost their sixth consecutive game and 12th in their last 13.

Results of the National Hockey League games played yesterday:

Boston	3	Hartford	2
Buffalo	4	Minnesota	2
Washington	2	Philadelphia	2
Montreal	5	Quebec	2
New Jersey	6	N.Y. Rangers	4
Chicago	4	Toronto	2
St. Louis	5	Pittsburgh	4
Winnipeg	1	Los Angeles	0

The victory gave the Canadiens seven wins in eight games this season against their provincial rivals, who lost their sixth consecutive game and 12th in their last 13.

Sabres 4, North Stars 2
Scott Arniel tipped in a shot from the point to break a tie with 65:51 remaining in regulation time to a night, leading the Buffalo Sabres to a 4-2 victory over the Minnesota North Stars.

The loss snapped a four-game winning streak for the North Stars.

Results of the National Hockey League games played yesterday:

The victory gave the Canadiens seven wins in eight games this season against their provincial rivals, who lost their sixth consecutive game and 12th in their last 13.



Nordiques' Craig Wolanin hits Canadiens' Claude Lemieux with his elbow. (Reuters wirephoto)

SPORTS

SPORTS BRIEFS

Cigarette ads

PARIS, March 30. (Reuters) A French government plan to ban cigarette advertising in the sporting world on Wednesday, with world champion Alain Prost predicting a catastrophe for motor racing. Campaigning to clean up French lifestyles, cabinet ministers have approved a 15 percent rise in tobacco prices from 1991 and agreed that a law banning the advertising of tobacco and anything other than low-grade alcohol would be debated by parliament next month.

Heavy rain

HOUSTON, March 30. (Reuters) Heavy rain yesterday again prevented top-seeded Martina Navratilova from beginning her quest for her 150th victory at a \$225,000 women's tennis tournament.

Capriati 14

WESLEY CHAPEL, Florida, March 30. (AP) Jennifer Capriati is no longer America's most famous 13-year-old athlete. She turned 14 yesterday. "It's going to be awesome because I feel like I've been 13 forever," tennis' youngest star said. "Finally I'm 14."

Former champion

BRISBANE, Australia, March 30. (Reuters) Former Wimbledon champion Pat Cash said today he intends to marry his Brazilian-born American girlfriend Emily Bendit after proposing to her on St. Valentine's Day.

Soviet trainer

MOSCOW, March 30. (Reuters) Vladimir Salnikov, who won Olympic swimming titles in 1980 and 1988, is quitting as chief national trainer and plans to become president of the Soviet Swimming Federation, Tass news agency reported on Wednesday.

Stark banned

LONDON, March 30. (Reuters) Britain's Olympic three-way event silver medalist Ian Stark has been banned for three months by the International Equestrian Federation (FEI) following a positive drug test on his horse.

Bulgarian president

SOFIA, March 30. (Reuters) About 1,000 Bulgarian sportsmen and intellectuals demonstrated in Sofia on Wednesday for the release of Ivan Slavov, president of the National Olympic Committee, who was arrested in February.

Circuit extended

LONDON, March 30. (Reuters) The Silverstone Formula One motor racing circuit is to be extended from 4.78 km to 5.2 km in time for the 1991 British Grand Prix.

Action demanded

SYDNEY, March 30. (Reuters) Australian Rugby Union officials have asked the Soviet Union to take action against the player who broke Wallaby captain Nick Farr-Jones' jaw in a match on Wednesday.

Confidence vote

PARIS, March 30. (Reuters) French Rugby Union Federation (FFR) president Albert Ferrasse is to quit unless he gets a clear vote of confidence by the end of May.

NFL games

WEST BERLIN, March 30. (AP) Five countries will play host to preseason NFL games later this year, and the exhibition schedule next year could be expanded to include games in the Soviet Union, Italy and Australia.

Gooch breaks finger in third Test

Rain thwarts England's win bid

PORT OF SPAIN, Trinidad, March 30. (Reuters) England lost captain Graham Gooch with a broken finger as their attempt to beat West Indies in the third cricket Test was frustrated by rain and the match ended in a draw at Queen's Park Oval on Wednesday.

Gooch suffered the injury to the little finger of his left hand when he was struck by a delivery from pace bowler Ezra Moseley during England's pursuit of a victory target of 151 on the fifth and final day.

They ended on 120 for five, preserving their 1-0 lead in the five-Test series.

The England captain retired hurt having scored 18 and went to hospital for a X-ray. Later it was announced he would miss the fourth Test starting in Bridgetown on April 5.

The touring team had raced to 73 for one at lunch when a torrential downpour prevented play for four hours.

On the resumption, West Indies hit back as Courtney Walsh snapped up three wickets in quick succession and fellow fast bowler Ian Bishop claimed the crucial scalp of Allan Lamb to reduce England to 106 for five.

The umpires soon afterwards offered David Capel and Jack Russell the chance to go off for bad light, but signals from the



Bishop (right) celebrates after dismissing Lamb. (Reuters wirephoto)

England balcony prompted them to carry on.

The light then began to deteriorate rapidly and with Bishop bowling at his fastest and Curtly Ambrose operating with the gloom in the pavilion behind him, England finally called off the hunt.

England swiftly wrapped up

the West Indies second innings for 239 after they resumed at the overnight 334 for nine.

Devon Malcolm, with his eighth ball of the day, had Walsh lbw for one, the Jamaican-born fast bowler finishing with six for 77 and 10-wicket haul in the game which earned him the Man of the Match award.

England launched their victory quest in position mood, though they lost Wayne Larkins caught behind trying to cut Moseley in the eighth over.

Gooch was forced to retire hurt at 37 in the 10th over, but Alec Stewart showed unexpected aggression to help take the score to 73 for one from 16.1 overs when rain ended the morning session five minutes early.

The game restarted after fine work by the groundstaff, who pumped huge quantities of water off the tarpaulin covers and into drains beside the outfield.

England found scoring extremely difficult following the departure of Stewart to the second ball after the resumption. He had given a good deal of impetus to the chase before lunch, his 31 coming off 32 balls.

However, Stewart fell when he slashed at a wide loop from Walsh, got a top edge and was caught at third man.

The uneven bounce of the pitch accounted for both Robin Smith and Roh Bailey, who were lbw and bowled respectively by deliveries from Walsh that kept very low. For Bailey, it was a pair in only his second Test.

Scoreboard
WEST INDIES first innings 199 (G. Logie 98, D. Malcolm four to go)
ENGLAND first innings 288 (G. Gooch 84, W. Larkins 54, C. Ambrose four for 59)

WEST INDIES second innings

(overnight 234 for nine)
G. Greenidge lbw b Fraser 42
D. Haynes c Lamb b Malcolm 45
R. Richardson c Gooch b Small 34
C. Best lbw b Malcolm 0
J. Dujon b Malcolm 0
G. Logie c Larkins b Malcolm 20
C. Hooper run out 10
E. Moseley c Lamb b Malcolm 26
C. Ambrose c Russell b Fraser 18
I. Bishop not out 15
C. Walsh lbw b Malcolm 1
Extras (b-2 lb-13 w-1 nb-12) 28
Total 239

Fall of wickets: 1-96 2-100 3-100-4-100 5-142 6-167 7-200 8-200 9-234
Bowling: Malcolm 26.2-4-77-6, Small 21-8-56-1, Capel 13-3-30-0, Fraser 24-4-61-2.

ENGLAND second innings

G. Gooch retired hurt 18
W. Larkins c Dujon b Moseley 7
A. Stewart c Bishop b Walsh 31
A. Lamb lbw b Bishop 25
R. Smith lbw b Walsh 2
R. Bailey b Walsh 0
D. Capel not out 17
R. Russell not out 5
Extras (b-2 lb-7 nb-5) 15
Total (five wickets) 120
Fall of wickets: 1-27 2-74 3-79 4-84 5-106

Bowling: Bishop 10-1-31-1, Ambrose 6-0-20-0, Moseley 10-1-33-1, Walsh 7-0-27-3
Result: match drawn
First Test: Kingston, Jamaica — England won by nine wickets
Second Test: Georgetown, Guyana — abandoned, rain
Fourth Test: Bridgetown, Barbados — April 5-10
Fifth Test: St John's, Antigua — April 12-17

Gower to boost England squad

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados, March 30. (AP) England drafted former captain, David Gower, into their injury-hit cricket team for day and manager Micky Stewart said the left-handed batsman will play in their next match against Barbados, starting here today.

Gower, a 32-year-old veteran of 106 Tests, was approached on Wednesday when captain Graham Gooch had his left little finger broken on the final day of the third Test against the West Indies in Port of Spain, Trinidad.

Gower, replaced as England captain after a disastrous series against Australia in England last year and dropped from the team touring the West Indies, has been covering the tour for British radio and newspaper.

"I'm very excited at the prospect of playing for England again," Gower said. "I haven't played any cricket since September, but I've kept fit playing tennis and running on this tour."

Gower said his right shoulder was fully recovered following an operation in September but added: "I'll take it one day at a time and see how it goes."

Gower would have three innings before the fourth Test to prove himself — two against Barbados and one in the fifth one-day international against the West Indies here next Tuesday.

He was scheduled to start a tour of Barbados with his new county team, Hampshire, next week.

The Barbados team includes four of the West Indies players in the drawn third Test — stand-in captain Desmond Haynes, Gordon Greenidge, Carlisle Best and Ezra Moseley — along with Malcolm Marshall, the leading West Indies wicket-taker in Test cricket who has been kept out of the team since the first Test after breaking a finger in the third one-day international March 1.

■ Opaer David Smith, whose only two cricket Tests were in the West Indies four years ago, is to join England in the Caribbean at the end of Gooch.

Smith, named by the Test and County Cricket Board in London yesterday, will fly out tomorrow and join the touring team in Barbados on Sunday.

Smith, a fine player of fast bowling, was top scorer with 47 and 32 in his second Test appearance of the 1986 series in West Indies but missed the final match of the series through injury and then disappeared from the international scene.

■ Captain Viv Richards, who missed the third cricket Test against England, has been included in the West Indies' squad for the fifth and final one-day international.

Richards withdrew from the West Indies' side because of a recurrence of haemorrhoids.

He was named yesterday for the one-day international along with fast bowler Malcolm Marshall who has not played since breaking a finger in the third one-day international.

West Indies lead the one-day series 2-0 after two games were abandoned because of rain.

Team: Viv Richards (captain), Gordon Greenidge, Desmond Haynes, Richie Richardson, Carlisle Best, Gus Logie, Carl Hooper, Jeff Dujon, Malcolm Marshall, Ezra Moseley, Eldine Baptiste, C. Ambrose, Courtney Walsh.

Bargain House score two wins

BARGAIN HOUSE strengthened their Kuwait Premier League position and kept alive their League Cup hopes, thanks to two successive wins in their latest games.

In the League Cup match, Bargain House faced Bissan in a crucial game to decide which of the teams would progress to the last four in the competition. The game was played in typical cup-tie fashion with both teams competing for every ball.

The skillful Bissan players varied their moves in an effort to break down the solid Bargain House defence, but lacked the final penetration. Bargain House on the other hand relied more on their excellent team work and commitment to force their opponents onto the defensive.

The first goal of the game was a

rather controversial affair with one of the Bargain House defenders adjudged to have fouled an opponent in the penalty area, neutral observers, however, were of the opinion that the Bissan player had merely overbalanced.

The resultant penalty was converted to give Bissan an early lead. The score remained unchanged until five minutes before half-time when a flowing five-man move by Bargain House culminated in Kayeed sweeping the ball into the Bissan net.

The second half saw defences on top, with very few scoring chances being created by either team. The deadlock was eventually broken with fifteen minutes of the game remaining. Bargain House midfielder, Alan Wild, ran onto a beautifully

flighted through-ball from Bill Whitman and although the Bissan goalkeeper managed to parry his first effort, he could not prevent him following up and knocking the ball into the empty net.

No further goals were added and the final whistle blew in favour of Bargain House.

In their latest game in the Kuwait Premier League, Bargain House played their old rivals BMW. BMW were unable to field their strongest team, but were, nevertheless, full of confidence baving won their two previous games. Bargain House needed to win the game to keep in touch with League leaders, Salwa.

As the game got under way, it quickly became apparent that, as

with previous encounters between these teams, no quarters would be asked or given. This approach had a negative effect on the quality of football produced, with neither team really settling into any rhythm throughout the match. No clear chances were created in either half, leaving both goalkeepers to deal only with speculative long-range shots.

The deciding goal came midway through the second half when Bargain House midfielder, Alan Wild, broke through the BMW defence and fired in a fine angled shot beyond keeper, Dave Airey.

No further goals were added leaving Bargain House narrow 1-0 winners. BMW will, no doubt, be looking to take revenge for this defeat in the final fixture between these teams.

Hadlee hopes for full role in England tour

AUCKLAND, New Zealand, March 30. (Reuters) New Zealand all-rounder Richard Hadlee said yesterday he hoped to be able to play a full role in his country's cricket tour of England this summer.

Hadlee, 38, strained a groin muscle on Wednesday during the second of the four-match series between the New Zealand XI and a World XI to mark his retirement from Test cricket later this year.

After sustaining the injury, Hadlee bobbled through a run while batting, fielded briefly but did not bowl.

But his manager, Bill McCormick, said yesterday Hadlee would play in the two remaining matches of his testimonial series at the weekend, though probably not as a bowler.

However, he will miss team's trip to Sharjah late next month to contest the Australasian Cup one-day series.

McCormick said: "After treatment last night and again this morning, Hadlee reports that the injury has 'freed up' and that he was looking forward to playing in the remaining two games," manager Bill McCormick said.

Khaosai KOs Blanca in 5th round

BANGKOK, March 30. (Reuters) Khaosai Galaxy of Thailand recorded the 13th successful defence of his World Boxing Association (WBA) junior-bantamweight crown when he knocked out Filipino Ari Blanca in the fifth round of a one-sided bout yesterday.

The stocky Thai was well ahead on points when he cracked a left uppercut into the Filipino's jaw and caught him with two glancing blows as he backed away across the ring. Blanca pitched on to his face and had no chance of beating the count.

Khaosai took an obligatory count of eight after appearing to slip during a flurry of close punching in a neutral corner near the end of the first round but that was about the only encouraging moment for Blanca.

The Thai southpaw, moving relentlessly forward, was caught by a few counter punches from the lighter-gloved and less skilful Filipino.

But his solid right leads and fierce left uppercuts put him well in command of the scrappy contest by the fifth of the scheduled 12 rounds.

Masur puts Australia on equal terms

BRISBANE, Australia, March 30. (Reuters) Australia's Wally Masur eased the pain of team mate John Fitzgerald by beating New Zealand's Kelly Evernden 6-37-66-1 in the second singles to level their Davis Cup quarter-final at 1-1 today.

In the opening singles of the world group tie, Fitzgerald allowed Brett Steven, ranked 429 in the world, just one game in the first two sets which lasted 52 minutes on the heavy grass courts.

But Steven regained his composure during the frequent rain breaks and completed one of the fines comebacks in Davis Cup history to win 1-60-66-3-64-6-2.

"I hadn't put any pressure on myself to win but I was really nervous for the first two sets and hardly got any first serves in," said Steven, whose surprise defeat of Goran Prpic helped New Zealand beat Yugoslavia in the first round.

India took a 1-0 lead over Japan in the opening round today of their Davis Cup Asia-Oceania zone tennis contest when Zeeshan Ali defeated Hideo Tanizawa in straight sets.

Ali, the Indian national champion, outclassed Tanizawa, who won this year's Japanese national championship, and took the match 6-4, 6-2, 6-3.

Owens receives 'fifth gold medal'

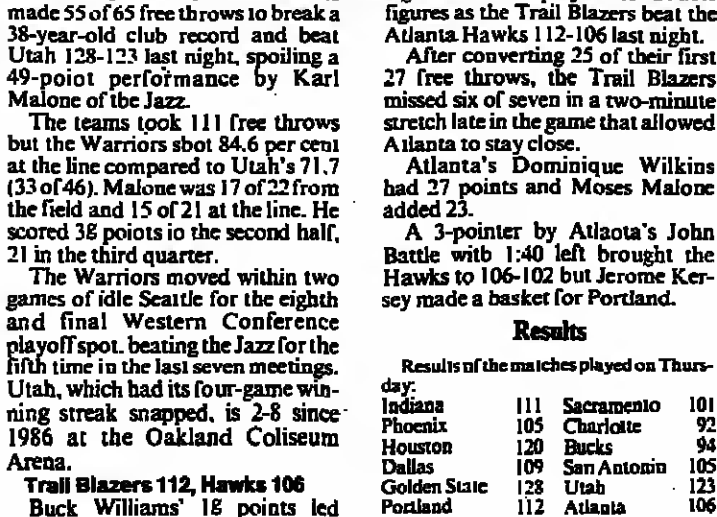
WASHINGTON, March 30. (UPI) Jesse Owens, a black Olympic champion who punctured Adolf Hitler's theory of a superior Aryan race at the 1936 Olympics by winning four gold medals, Wednesday was posthumously presented a "fifth gold medal," by President Bush.

"This one... for his humanitarian contributions to the human race," Bush said at a White House ceremony where he honoured the legendary black track star with the Congressional gold medal, America's highest civilian award.

Results

Results of the matches played on Thursday:
Indiana 111 Sacramento 101
Phoenix 105 Charlotte 92
Houston 120 Bucks 94
Dallas 109 San Antonio 105
Golden State 128 Utah 123
Portland 112 Atlanta 106

Jazz' Mark Eaton (right) swats away an attempted shot by Warriors guard Tim Haraway in the first quarter. (Reuters wirephoto)



Jordan scores 69 points for Bulls



Warriors' Tim Hardway (left) and Mitch Richmond (right) apply pressure to Jazz' Theodore Edwards. (Reuters wirephoto)

RICHFIELD, Ohio, March 30. (AP) Michael Jordan routinely does what no one else has ever done. Occasionally, he does something Michael Jordan's never done before.

On Wednesday night, Jordan erupted for a career-high 69 points, and the Chicago Bulls needed every one of them in subduing the Cleveland Cavaliers 117-113 in overtime.

It surpassed his 63-point effort against the Boston Celtics in a playoff game in 1986 and was the ninth highest scoring performance in National Basketball Association history.

"I haven't felt like this since that day in Boston," Jordan said. "It's just a great feeling to put out the effort, to know you're tired but to have accomplished something by winning the ball game."

Top ten performances

The top 10 individual scoring performances in NBA history, with opponent and date: 100 — Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia vs New York at Hershey, Pennsylvania, March 2, 1962; 78 — Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia vs Los Angeles, Dec. 8, 1961; 73 — Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia vs Chicago, Jan. 13, 1962; 73 — David Thompson, Denver at Detroit, April 9, 1978; 72 Chamberlain, San Francisco at Los Angeles, Nov. 3, 1962; 71 — Elgin Baylor, Los Angeles at New York, Nov. 15, 1960; 70 — Wilt Chamberlain, San Francisco at Syracuse, March 10, 1963; 69 Michael Jordan, Chicago at Cleveland, March 28, 1990; 68 — Wilt Chamberlain, Philadelphia at Chicago, Dec. 16, 1967.

Warriors 128, Jazz 123
CHRIS Mullin scored 29 points

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